

Government intends to bolster police

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday that the government was going ahead with plans to bolster the capabilities of the Public Security Department (PSD) and enhance the department's services so as to deal with any security problem. The prime minister made the statement following an inspection visit to the PSD accompanied by Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh, during which he was briefed by PSD Director General and his assistants on the department's development and modernisation programme and the various duties it is carrying out in the country. The prime minister who later toured a number of sections voiced his satisfaction with the progress of development and said that policemen assume noble mission of preserving the lives and protecting the property of citizens. He said security is an important factor in the process of development. The prime minister voiced his appreciation of the police force which he said was instrumental in preserving peace and order in the 1989 parliamentary elections and in dealing with the thousands of evacuees coming to the country from the Gulf during the past crisis.



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Cabinet approves purchase of JD 3m drills

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday reviewed a report presented by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saad Hayel Surour on increasing water sources in the Kingdom in accordance with priorities defined by the concerned authorities. The cabinet decided to allocate JD 3 million for purchasing two drills for deep artesian wells. It also approved the establishment of four dams in Karameh, Tannour, Waleh and Mujib. The session was chaired by the prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran.

Public Prosecutor investigates fraud

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Public Prosecutor is currently investigating two embezzlement and fraud cases involving two people who acquired JD 610,000 by illegal means. A senior employee in a public shareholding money exchange company has been able to illegally acquire an amount of JD 110,000 through forging bonds and exchange notes. The Central Bank has revealed the forgery upon inspecting the company's records and has therefore referred the case to the public prosecutor for action. The second case involves an unidentified Jordanian who collected through fraud and swindling more than half a million dinars. The man allegedly carried out 34 such incidents of fraud during a period of seven years.

Pakistani Upper House passes Sharia law

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's parliament decreed on Tuesday that the Islamic code of Sharia will be the country's supreme law. The 87-seat senate, the upper house, passed the controversial legislation after rejecting 40 amendments moved by a weak opposition that called the Sharia bill fundamentalist and undemocratic. The bill was passed by the 217-seat national assembly, the lower house, on May 16 and must now receive the assent of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan within 30 days to become law.

Syrian parliament ratifies treaty

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's parliament has ratified a treaty committing Syria and Lebanon to close cooperation on political, security and economic issues, officials said on Wednesday. They said the "brotherhood" pact was approved unanimously on Monday night at a special session attended by Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi and members of his cabinet. It was the final step needed to put the accord, worked out under an Arab-brokered peace plan to end 16 years of civil war in Lebanon, into effect. The Lebanese parliament ratified the treaty earlier on Monday.

Former Iraqi minister says he is doomed

OTTAWA (AP) — A former Iraqi official has been quoted as saying that he and two other former Iraqi envoys are under death sentence by President Saddam Hussein following their defections overseas from the Baghdad government. Former Iraqi Planning Minister Jawad Hashim identified the two others as Mohammed Al Mashat, the former Iraqi ambassador to the United States, and Afif Al Rawi, ex-ambassador to Australia. All three were accused of high treason and of cooperating with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and with British and Canadian security agencies, the former cabinet minister said. Hashim told Canadian Press from London that he learned of the death sentences over the weekend. The CP report on Monday said Hashim initiated contact with the department of external affairs in Mashat's fast-track immigration to Canada. He said Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, led by President Saddam, imposed the death sentences in absentia last week at a secret meeting.

London peace talks end; negotiators agree to set up broad-based government Ethiopian rebels take Addis Ababa

LONDON (R) — The Ethiopian rebels who captured Addis Ababa in a dawn battle on Tuesday will assume interim state powers pending a conference to set up a broad-based provisional government, a senior U.S. official said. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen announced the agreement at the end of two days of U.S.-brokered peace talks among various rebel factions. They included the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) whose fighters took control of the Ethiopian capital to end 17 years of bloody Marxist rule. The Ethiopian government withdrew from the talks earlier because the United States invited the EPRDF to enter Addis Ababa to help to stabilise the situation there. In Addis Ababa, rebel tanks blasted their way into the city at dawn on Tuesday, toppling the

remnants of a Marxist government whose 17-year rule brought Ethiopia war and famine. Thousands of fighters, some clad in shorts and plastic sandals, overran the lightly-defended city within three hours. Soviet-made rebel tanks sprayed the presidential palace with heavy machinegun fire, hitting two ammunition stores which exploded in star bursts of shells and bullets. The rebels blasted away with anti-aircraft guns and rocket launchers. The soldiers inside put up little resistance. Many surrendered. Their commander, Marxist military ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam, had fled to Zimbabwe exactly one week before. Troops from Mengistu's once half-million-strong army, Africa's biggest, quickly scattered, some without boots. "The first phase is finished and we control all key points in the

city," deputy rebel commander Halem Alemu said. "Next is cleaning and mopping up. The fighting was not as hard as we had expected," he said. Reading a joint statement, Cohen said in London the EPRDF and the other rebel groups had agreed to hold a further conference not later than July 1. "In the meantime, the EPRDF will assume state responsibilities in Addis Ababa pending the formation of a broad-based provisional government at the proposed conference," he said. The other groups at the talks were the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the main rebel force since the 1970s in a 30-year war for independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea, the Oromo Liberation Front. Ethiopian Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka called the talks unprecedented and said the EPRDF's "temporary" position in power

did not mean Ethiopia's political problems would be solved. "As events developed, we are now at a situation where one particular party has been invited to march into Addis Ababa and to make the lead in forming a transitional government," he told reporters. "The Ethiopian government delegation was very much disappointed with this..." He said he would not stay in London but would give no other indication of his immediate plans. Cohen, speaking at a news conference, denied that the United States was taking sides. "We are not supporting anyone. We are supporting a democratic transition in Ethiopia," he said. Asked about the Marxist leanings of some of the rebel groups, he said future U.S. cooperation including aid would depend on democracy being established in

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West wants Kurdish oil - Iraqi president

ISTANBUL (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused the West in an interview published on Tuesday of trying to set up an oil-rich Kurdish state in the north of his country. President Saddam, who was interviewed by Turkish former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit for the liberal daily Milliyet, said Western states were using Iraq's Kurds to divide the country and win better access to oil revenues in the north. "They are after the establishment of a small oil state," the president said. "We have been talking to the Kurdish opposition leaders. The Iraqi Kurds are not after separatism. It is the west that has been encouraging it."

Troops from the Gulf war coalition occupied northern areas of Iraq in April to shield Kurds from the Iraqi army after Baghdad crushed a Kurdish revolt. The allies say they want to withdraw from the north by mid-June, leaving a U.N. presence. Kurdish leaders have been holding talks with the government in Baghdad on an autonomy deal and free elections in Iraq. The Kurds want to include the oil town of Kirkuk in an autonomous region, the government to exclude it.

In the interview with Ecevit, who visited Baghdad last week, President Saddam called for talks among Iraq's neighbours to protect the region from Western interests. He said the United States did not want oil-revenues to be in the hands of large nations in the area. "If they divide the oil-rich region into small states then they'll control everything, including oil," he said. "Unlike the foreigners, the region's countries have a different view of their problems. We neighbours must pursue our own common interests." President Saddam added: "There should be no policies of revenge. There should be a dialogue instead."

PLO delegation meets Assad

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — President Hafez Assad met Tuesday with a high-ranking PLO delegation amid indications that they have buried the hatchet to end an eight-year rift that has been a major obstacle in the Middle East peace process. "A new era has started between Syria and the PLO," declared Farouk Al Kaddoumi, the head of the delegation and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's foreign minister. The PLO under Chairman Yasser Arafat has been at odds with Syria since 1988, when the Syrians backed Palestinian radicals in a mutiny against Arafat. Kaddoumi said Syrian and PLO points of view were now "convergent" regarding the United States' revived peace initiative in the Middle East. The PLO and the Arab states want an international peace conference convened under United

Nations auspices, with the participation of the European Community. Israel refuses to recognise the PLO as the sole representative of the world's 5 million Palestinians and favours a regional rather than international peace conference. "We both want a full participation of the United Nations and the European Community, and we both want an independent Palestinian representation at the proposed conference," Kaddoumi said. After Tuesday's two-hour meeting, Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO's information department, told reporters that "strong steps have been taken to promote and deepen PLO-Syrian relations." President Assad's spokesman, Joubran Kourieh, said the talks centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict and plans "to launch a peace process based on U.N. resolu-

tions" calling for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands. The PLO delegation is the first to meet with President Assad in Damascus in three years and the second since 1983. Chairman Arafat met President Assad in the Syrian capital in April 1988 following the funeral of Abu Jihad, the PLO's military commander assassinated in Tunis that year. Israel was blamed for the slaying. Arafat's mission was also aimed at reconciling with Damascus. But it apparently foundered because of the continued detention of some 2,000 Arafat loyalists in Syria. President Assad freed most of those prisoners recently, opening the door to a new reconciliation bid long proposed by moderate Arab states seeking to promote

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'Israel considers them traitors'

269 Jews seek refuge in Germany

BERLIN (Agencies) — More than 250 Soviet Jews who took refuge in Germany during the Gulf war asked Berlin's mayor on Tuesday to prevent their extradition back to Israel. "We...beg you to give us the status of refugees," the Jews wrote in an open letter to Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen.

The Berlin government is checking whether it can offer residence status to the 269 Jews but may only be able to if it recognises them as refugees — a decision that would embarrass Germany and Israel. Bonn's interior ministry has

said there were no humanitarian reasons for recognising the Jews as refugees and Israel has urged them to return. They came to Berlin from Israel, which came under missile attack from Iraq during the Gulf war. In the letter, the Jews said they were considered traitors by Israel for refusing to settle in the occupied territories. "We and our children want to live in Germany," they said in their letter.

Berlin's Jewish community, almost disappeared during the Nazi rule, has grown recently with a direct influx of hundreds of Soviet Jews fleeing resurgent anti-semitism. Many have claimed refugee status to gain right of residence in affluent Germany rather than settling in Israel. During Tuesday's protest, the Jews held up signs to support their demands. "Germany, we believe in you. Don't disappoint us," said one sign.

Another placard read: "We had a long way — the Soviet Union-Israel-Germany." The protesters also delivered a letter to Mayor Eberhard Diepgen to press their demands for refugee status.

that took place during the Gulf crisis and the war that followed in certain Arab countries. "During the crisis, we saw a clear exercise of people's will away from their governments intervention, especially in Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and North Africa," he said. Earlier Mr. Aloush said that democratic reform in the Arab World cannot be achieved unless a democratic revolution takes place. "The solution lies in a democratic revolution led by a popular nationalist democratic front," he said.

The conference, which is attended by intellectuals and thinkers from many Arab countries, is the second of its kind. The first one took place

Historic opportunity for peace should not be lost - Prince Hassan

VIENNA, Austria (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged the superpowers and the United Nations to promptly deal with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and bring an end to the Middle East problem without delay. Should the Palestinian-Israeli conflict be terminated that would automatically pave the way for Arab-Israeli negotiations, said the Crown Prince in an address delivered on his behalf to the International Conference on Middle East Challenges after the Gulf war, organised by the International Peace Academy with the support of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. "We in Jordan see the prospect for a peace process as a historic opportunity and we fear that such an opportunity could be lost through any lack of diplomatic initiative or flexibility," Crown Prince said. He said: "If we are to move towards a significantly more satisfactory situation than the

status quo, then it is vital that policy-makers address the critical variable. The basic source of unrest in the Middle East at the moment is the categorical Israeli refusal to accept the principle of land for peace. The initial drive for this process could come from the superpowers. Of course they cannot and should not impose a peaceful solution on the Middle East but they can facilitate initial political negotiations and be more instrumental in helping to create a positive regional security environment." Equal attention must be given to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological and chemical) and their means of delivery, the Prince stressed. Crown Prince Hassan said that the Helsinki process could be extended to the Middle East through a three-pronged strategy based on energy policy, arms control and debt re-

duction that would evolve into political economy for peace and progress not despair. He said "local and external resources must be deployed in transforming the future of this region that a better tomorrow may become evident to those who suffer today, that they may go on with hope and not resort to the violent patterns of despair so common to the Middle East that we may never again have to helplessly witness a child starving or an old man dying on an exposed mountaintop far away from home." U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas Pickering has reiterated Washington's criticism of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories. Pickering, who is attending the international conference in Vienna said that the Israeli settlement policy constituted a major obstacle in the path of a Middle East settlement.

Israeli soldiers kill 2 Palestinians 4,500 housing units built in occupied territories-Sharon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said that nearly 4,500 of the 35,000 housing units in the past year have been in the occupied territories, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The U.S. administration is against Jewish settlement building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying the settlements there are an obstacle to peace. Israel is seeking \$10 billion in American aid to help settle new immigrants. Speaking before parliament, Sharon said 4,468 new apartments had been started in the occupied lands since April 1990. These include permanent housing, mobile homes and trailers, the daily Jerusalem Post newspaper reported.

Sharon had been giving legislators the routine survey on his ministry's budget. He did not have the budget printed as is normal, saying the money was better spent on construction. Some legislators suspected the reason nothing was printed was to hide the amount of money spent in the disputed lands, the leftist Al Hamishmar newspaper said. The influx of more than 250,000 new immigrants since mid-1989 has created severe housing shortages. Sharon, who heads the government's absorption committee, said 95,000 units are expected to be built or be under construction by the end of the year, the newspaper said.

According to Sharon, only one per cent of the new immigrants have settled in the occupied lands. The West Bank and the Gaza Strip are home to 1.7 Palestinians and about 100,000 Jewish settlers. On Monday Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the occupied West Bank and a woman died in hospital in the Gaza Strip after being knocked down by an army jeep. Palestinian and security sources said. Security sources said Jamal Omar Kamel, 18, was shot dead by soldiers during a raid for activists in Beit Qad village in a 41-month-long Palestinian revolt

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NATO defence ministers approve rapid reaction force

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO on Tuesday approved the most radical shakeup of its forces since the alliance was founded, including formation of a multinational "rapid reaction" unit to face potential threats in Europe now the cold war is over. Alliance defence ministers approved a plan that would set up an all-European corps-sized unit of at least 60,000 troops under British command, able to deploy from the Arctic to the Mediterranean in a few weeks, officials said. The ministers, on the first day of a meeting in Brussels, also agreed to reduce sharply the number of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) forces

that have lined up since 1949 in central Europe to face an attack from the now-defunct Warsaw Pact. "We have found a balanced and satisfactory solution in the organisation of the units," German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg told reporters. The joint-forces move has been mandated by the receding Soviet military threat and by shrinking defence budgets in the 16-nation alliance. But NATO's new strategy, which will be approved formally at an alliance summit later this year, still identifies the military might of an unstable Soviet Union as the main risk to Western security and says conflicts in the

Middle East or Eastern Europe could spill over into alliance territory. "We'll be dealing with a much more complex set of risks," said one British official. "We need forces that will give us a range of options for crisis management." NATO officials said the new force structure would be highly flexible so that troops could be used to deter aggression and then withdraw quickly if the threat passed. The rapid reaction corps, with its headquarters in Germany, would include four divisions. Two would be British, one with heavy armour. Another division, made

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Pan-Arab conference resumes deliberations Discussions centre on human rights and national security

By Serene Hakasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants at a pan-Arab national conference of intellectuals and thinkers resumed their second day of deliberations Tuesday to discuss Arab national security, and human rights issues in the Arab World. Speakers outlined what they described as the failure of Arab regimes in facing external threats and challenges and called for democratic reforms throughout the Arab World. "The existing Arab regimes have failed to confront current challenges simply because they are subservient to others," Mr. Najji Aloush, a Palestinian

thinker, said. "These regimes which create corrupt systems and build useless armies with poor military capabilities tend to create certain climates which can by no means guarantee national security," he added. Mr. Aloush said that the Arab Nation was threatened by more than one enemy. "We stand against imperialism in general — American imperialism in specific — Zionism, and expansionist non-Arab regimes in the region." Major General (ret.) Talaat Muslim, from Jordan, said that the Arab Nation was passing through one of its most dangerous stages, threatening its future and the future of its people at large. Rejecting the presence of all foreign military forces on Arab soil, he said "only the people of the Arab region should assume responsibility for its security and defence." Referring to the Gulf crisis, Gen. Muslim said that the crisis created a new form of national security because certain Arab countries had accepted the idea of one Arab state occupying another, while other Arab countries had accepted the idea of total destruction of the forces of another Arab country. Saleh Rshaidat, an engineering consultant and columnist from Jordan, expressed optimism about democratic changes

that took place during the Gulf crisis and the war that followed in certain Arab countries. "During the crisis, we saw a clear exercise of people's will away from their governments intervention, especially in Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and North Africa," he said. Earlier Mr. Aloush said that democratic reform in the Arab World cannot be achieved unless a democratic revolution takes place. "The solution lies in a democratic revolution led by a popular nationalist democratic front," he said. The conference, which is attended by intellectuals and thinkers from many Arab countries, is the second of its kind. The first one took place

in Tunisia on March 3, 1990. The idea of establishing a conference hosting a number of Arab thinkers and intellectuals was put forth for the first time during a seminar on Arab unity in Sana'a in 1988. The aim of the non-official annual meeting is to establish a political and ideological reference that seeks to promote action leading towards Arab unity. Another topic discussed during yesterday's session was human rights issues in the Arab World. Dr. Hisham Sharabi, a history professor at Georgetown University, said that the human rights issue in the Arab World cannot be isolated from two main issues, personal free-

doms, and the liberation of women. He urged speakers to stay away from slogans and to start actual reforms in both fields, especially the freedom of Arab women in order to achieve the kind of democracy that could guarantee equal and fair representation of all parties in society. In his address, Dr. Sharabi referred to the current social system as a patriarchal system built on the absolute hegemony of the father, the control of male over female, and the oppression of the female element both in society and family. "This patriarchal system suffers from incurable structural

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Afghan rebels reject Najibullah's truce offer

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Afghan guerrillas based in Pakistan rejected Tuesday a truce offer by the Soviet-backed Kabul government of President Najibullah.

The president of a rebel government, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, told a news conference the guerrillas could consider a ceasefire under a transitional government but not while Najibullah was in power.

Najibullah offered the ceasefire in a speech on official Kabul Radio and television Monday night, saying a United Nations plan to end the 12-year-old civil war must be given a chance to work.

"A ceasefire is not acceptable in this style," Mojaddidi said in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar. "It is possible only through a transitional government. If Najib is there, there can be no ceasefire."

Najibullah said in his speech all provincial governors and government authorities had been given orders to stop fighting in their areas if the Western-backed rebel commanders also agreed.

He said this had been done for the success of the U.N. plan,

which envisages a ceasefire and the creation of an interim administration in Kabul during a transitional period leading to elections.

"This ceasefire can be at the level of a province, a sub-division or even a village," Najibullah said in the speech, monitored in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

Mojaddidi said the Mujahideen guerrillas would not accept Najibullah as a transitional head of government and suggested he transfer power to the rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG).

AIG Information Minister Najibullah Lefraie called Kabul's ceasefire offer a "propaganda gimmick" and said: "When Najib talks about ceasefire, he intensifies war activities. This ceasefire is not acceptable to Afghan people."

"Ceasefire is not acceptable in the presence of the radical Hezb-i-Islami guerrilla party said."

"Najib should have resigned before making this ceasefire offer," the spokesman said. Radical guerrilla groups rejected the U.N. plan last week while most of the more moderate

Mujahideen guerrilla leaders, including Mojaddidi, were in Tehran for talks with the Iranian government and Shiite Muslim guerrilla groups based there.

Najibullah said the plan had been accepted by the United States and Pakistan, the main backers of the rebels, as well as the Soviet Union that supports his government.

"He said some guerrilla groups still wanted a military solution to 'keep Afghanistan bleeding'."

Afghan forces would "not allow these warmongers to act against Afghanistan's national interest," said Najibullah. "We sincerely believe only the Afghan people have the right to choose their government and their political destiny."

The last ceasefire offer from Najibullah came in March to make the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The rebels rejected it and continued to fight.

A Pakistan government spokesman said Monday that Iran and Saudi Arabia, among the main backers of the rebels, had supported Pakistan's position of endorsing the U.N. plan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's adviser on information, Sheikh



Najibullah

Rashid Ahmed, told reporters that a meeting of Sharif's cabinet had approved the policy of seeking a political settlement in Afghanistan.

He said a senior Pakistani Foreign Ministry official was in Moscow talking to the Soviet authorities.

He said Islamabad was also in contact with the Mujahideen. "We may not succeed 100 per cent," he said, referring to the reservations of the radical guerrilla leaders who have vowed to fight on until they set up an Islamic government of their own in Kabul.

Saudi deny Palestine Arabs entry through Jordan

1,030 Jordanians get visas for Haj

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Saudi authorities have to date issued visas to 1,030 Jordanians wishing to perform this year's haj (pilgrimage) to Mecca, sources at the Saudi Embassy here said Tuesday.

According to the sources, the Saudi authorities have rejected a request for allowing the Muslims of Arab lands occupied since 1948 to be transported to Saudi Arabia via Jordan.

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs officials said that the Saudi authorities have instructed the embassy in Amman to refrain from issuing visas to pilgrims coming from the Palestinian territories occupied since 1948 and said that those pilgrims should be transported through Egypt.

The officials said that intensive contacts are now underway between the concerned Jordanian and Saudi authorities to settle this issue and ensure the transportation of those pilgrims through

Jordan. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs normally registers all Muslims from Palestine and Jordan wishing to perform haj rites and the pilgrims are normally transported by Jordanian buses.

Meanwhile, the ministry said that the number of Jordanians and Palestinians registered for this year's pilgrimage was less than half of last year's total.

The Ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel was quoted by the Associated Press (AP) as saying about 3,000 Muslims from Jordan and another 3,000 from the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have registered for haj which begins next month.

Last year, some 13,000 registered. The sharp drop was attributed to tensions following the Gulf war and economic problems that persist from the conflict.

Thousands march in support of general strike in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Some 40,000 Algerians marched through the streets of Algiers Monday night in support of a general strike called by the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The marchers trying to breathe new life into the general strike brandished copies of the Koran and banners calling on President Chadli Benjedid to step down.

The strike was called on Saturday by the FIS in support of a series of demands related to the country's first multi-party elections on June 27 but support for it was patchy.

The demonstration shouted: "The strike continues until the offspring of France is toppled," a reference to the National Liberation Front (FLN) Party in power since independence from France in 1962.

The strike has not affected the

country's oil and gas production, and transport, universities and schools in Algiers are working normally.

Town halls controlled by the FIS, which won wide support in last June's local elections, are closed, and rubbish is piling up in the streets.

On Sunday night, about 35,000 demonstrators were prevented by riot police from marching on the presidential palace and the national television station.

Fundamentalists said support for their strike increased Monday. They said the town of Medea, west of Algiers, was completely paralysed and more than 45 per cent of workers in Oran, Algeria's second city, and 89 per cent in Constantine in the east stopped work.

Rebels relax after seizing Ababa

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — A fire-blackened tank, its turret blown from its chassis, flames licking up from its interior, sat before the presidential palace after Tuesday's gun battle.

It was testimony to the rebel conquest on Addis Ababa Tuesday. The seizure of the capital and efforts at U.S.-mediated peace talks in London to forge a broad-based transitional government marked the conclusion of the rebel's 16-year war to overthrow the government.

After the battle for the presidential palace, rebels casually strolled through white smoke across a landscape littered with unexploded rockets and jagged shell fragments.

Flames rose 20 metres into the air from a guard post just beside the main southern gate of the presidential palace, while at least a half dozen smaller fires burned deeper inside the grounds.

The corpse of a government soldier lay beside an unarmoured tank, perhaps 20 metres from the gate. A dark pool of blood had soaked his chest. He lay on his back with his left arm thrown over his face.

A few metres farther on, past a stand of pine trees, was a gravelled driveway where six tanks sat, two of them burning.

A grinning rebel stood atop one smouldering tank, posing for photographs.

Nearer the main palace complex, another tank sat burning beside neat stacks of ammunition, the drab green crates bearing Cyrillic lettering — evidence of their having been shipped from Ethiopia's former east bloc allies.

A few metres away was a blackened, mangled mobile field gun, its tracks blown off.

Perhaps a dozen rebels roamed the portion of the compound near the gate. Small arms fire continued from the surrounding area.

Periodically, deep booming explosions sounded from nearby, evidence that another battle was taking place or that the rebels had set fire to another ammunition dump.

Earlier in the day, spectacular orange flames had risen from the palace grounds, spewing hot metal for hundreds of metres, as an ammunition depot burned for more than two hours after the rebels' dawn assault.

Despite the danger, scores of spectators came out on the streets beside the palace, most of them teen-aged boys from neighbouring tin-roofed shanty towns.

At one point dozens of them surged into the presidential compound and began picking up boots, shirts, jackets and canteens that apparently had been left behind by fleeing government soldiers.

A lone rebel unshouldered his AK-47 rifle and fired long bursts into the air. The footers fled in panic through the gate, down broad steps, through the street outside, where some began scuffling over their booty.

Libyan foreign minister calls on U.S., Britain to resume relations

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Libyan foreign Minister Ibrahim Bishari has called on the United States and Britain to resume relations with his country, the London-based newsletter Mideast Mirror reported Monday.

Bishari said that there was no truth to charges that his country was supporting terrorists, destabilizing other countries or producing chemical weapons — reasons cited by Washington for the continued rupture of ties with Tripoli.

"Libya opposes all form of terrorism, pledged not to produce any weapon of mass destruction and invites American companies to help operate the Rabta pharmaceutical plant, which will be opened soon," the newsletter reported quoting Bishari.

The interview will be published Tuesday.

U.S. warships were sent to the Libyan coast in January

1989 after charges that the Rabta installation was designed to produce chemical weapons. U.S. navy planes shot down two Libyan jets which challenged them over the Mediterranean.

In January 1990, U.S. officials claimed Libya appeared to have a second chemical weapons plant under construction at another location.

President George Bush last January extended sanctions against Libya first imposed in 1986.

Bishari said Tripoli was already in contact with European states to help operate the Rabta plant to produce medicine, and it would be opened soon. He did not name the Europeans involved.

"We are in touch with important scientific quarters, and if any American institutions are interested in participating, they are welcome. We have no complexes. The plant is known, its location is

known and we will open it soon. Anyone who wishes to participate ... let him bring his money and come," he said.

Bishari also invited the American oil companies which pulled out as part of the U.S. economic sanctions to return.

"I am calling on them to resume their activity. That would benefit the American economy as well, because they can get several billion dollars a year in profits out of this," he said.

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan froze Libyan assets in the United States and imposed a trade and economic embargo in 1986 after attacks on Israeli airline offices in Rome and Vienna were linked to the Abu Nidal Palestinian group, then based in Libya.

In April of that year, U.S. warplanes attacked Libya after allegations that Libya was involved in the Bombing of a West

Berlin discotheque frequented by U.S. soldiers.

The United States closed its embassy in Libya in 1981.

Bishari argued there the United States had no history of colonising his country, while it was "a big state, an important state, and it is natural for it to have normal relations with all the world's states."

Tripoli was "not a burdensome friend" and resumption of Libyan-American relations would be mutually beneficial, he said adding that his government was ready to meet with the United States "at any level they choose."

Libya's image had been "distorted" in the United States by "hostile quarters," he said, without elaborating.

Bishari also invited Britain to resume relations with his country. Relations were broken in April 1981.

Kuwaiti opposition protests martial law extension to emir

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's opposition politicians have protested to the emir against extension of martial law and continued human rights abuses, but failed to win any promise of reforms.

An eight-man delegation representing seven political groups met Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah for an hour Monday. They also met the prime minister, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

"He (the emir) did not promise to reconsider government policies on any of the issues we raised with him," delegation member Abdullah Nibari said at his house Monday night.

"We shall continue to express our views to the people," Nibari said.

The emir in April promised elections for a new parliament before the end of 1992, but the opposition says there is no need to wait so long. It charges that the government does not want any popular supervision as it maps out new regional security arrangements and post-Gulf war reconstruction.

Sheikh Jaber, whose family's right to rule is enshrined in Kuwait's 1962 constitution, dissolved an elected parliament in 1986, citing a foreign plot to

destabilise the state.

Monday's meeting, the first between the emir and opposition politicians since the Gulf war ended February 28, took place after the government quietly extended martial law by one month.

"Martial law was not successful in preserving security. Martial law is only successful in repressing people, in repressing free speech, the freedom of the press and people's rights," Nibari said.

The extension followed an unusually candid speech Sunday by the crown prince in which he said crime was rampant in the country, abductions and torture of non-Kuwaiti residents continued and that elements of law enforcement forces were involved in human rights abuses.

He demanded a crackdown to bring all violators to justice.

Human rights violations in Kuwait, mostly against the large Palestinian community, have been a source of concern to Kuwait's Western backers. There has also been concern over trials which began last week of some 200 mostly Palestinian people charged with collaborating with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

"We expressed to the emir the

need for political participation during the country's present delicate circumstances," said Nibari, who heads the Kuwait Forum, one of the groups which met the emir.

Nibari said the opposition leader also expressed concern to the emir over signs that his government might be considering the resurrection of a national assembly elected in June last year.

Bahrain crown prince says dangers still exist in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had boosted ties between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

But in remarks published in local papers Tuesday, he said dangers still existed in the Gulf region despite Iraq's defeat by the U.S.-led allies at the end of February.

"It's a big mistake if we think that dangers have disappeared... dangers exist and unpredictable things might take place like what happened to Kuwait," Sheikh Hamad said.

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"It (the Gulf crisis) has strengthened links between the people

of the region and their governments," Sheikh Hamad said.

He said GCC states wanted economic integration and fair distribution of Arab oil wealth.

"There are rich and poor countries. Economic integration would help fair distribution of wealth between regional states,"

Sheikh Hamad, who is also commander in chief of the defence force, defended the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf, saying: "Any strategic cooperation between any GCC state and a foreign country should be seen in light of the interest to defend GCC states against future threats."

Most allied troops have withdrawn from the region but a few thousand are remaining in Kuwait while details of a planned Arab security force are worked out.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Children's programme
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 After Henry
21:15
Soccer match: Marseille vs. Red Stars
20:00 News in English
22:15 Second half of the match
23:00
Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:53 Asr
16:13 Maghrib
19:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidish,

Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 677440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 625431.
Anglican Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephrem Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold with chances of scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Kayed Halayqa 795222
Dr. Salih Al Usoud 649028
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 67436
Dr. Khalil Al Jabbal 74740
Fines Pharmacy 669192
Ferdous Pharmacy 778336
Al Azzam Pharmacy 697055
Nafisah Pharmacy 625672

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Civil Defence Department 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890280
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890280
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.
Apple 550 / 200
Banana 300 / 450
Bambara (Mukhammar) 450 / 400
Beans 600 / 500
Broad beans 480 / 400
Cabbage 140 / 100
Carrot 200 / 150
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 90
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 200
Eggplant 350 / 200
Garlic 450 / 400
Lemon 320 / 280
Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 240 / 200
Marrow (small) 160 / 120
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Onion (green) 170 / 120
Orange 350 / 200
Pepper (hot) 240 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200
Potato 280 / 220
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 450 / 350
Sweet melon 300 / 250
Tomatoes 220 / 150
Watermelon 300 / 150

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:15 Jeddah (RJ)
18:15 Laraca, Damascus (RJ)
17:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 London, Paris (RJ)
19:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Tripoli, Tunis (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
21:00 New Delhi (RJ)
21:45 Cologne, Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
13:00 Sanaa (Y)

World Bank loan to help APC expand production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Bank has approved a \$15 million loan to Jordan, to be lent to the Arab Potash Company (APC), to help finance an expansion project at its plants near the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

The announcement was made by Dr. Safwan Toukan, Ministry of Planning secretary general, upon returning to Amman Tuesday following talks at the Washington-based World Bank over the terms and conditions of the loan which, he said, will be payable over 17 years, with a five-year grace period.

According to Dr. Toukan, the loan will help finance a project intended to boost by 400,000 tonnes a year the production of potash which would reach 1.8 million tonnes by the end of 1993.

The total cost of the project, which will be carried out in stages, is estimated at \$110 million. It entails producing potassium chloride which would be exported to other countries.

Dr. Toukan said that the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which holds a share in APC, will provide \$16 million, while the rest will be covered by the company's own revenues, according to Dr. Toukan.

APC Director General Ali Ensur had said in a statement earlier this month that once the second phase of the project is completed, by 1995, the company's total annual production would be boosted to 2.2 million tonnes.

The APC, which was established in 1956, has its plants near the southern area of the Dead Sea which provides the raw materials for its products. The company is shared by Jordan, which owns 54 per cent of its capital, along with Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank.



JORDAN U.S. CALGARY U. OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS: University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra Tuesday received a delegation from the University of Calgary and discussed with them prospects of introducing a special programme for social studies at the University of Jordan in cooperation with Calgary University. Dr. Samra welcomed the idea and formed a

special committee, headed by University Vice-President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhtit, to study the programme and draw up the broad guidelines for it. The meeting was attended by Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director General Inam Al Mufti, who accompanied the delegation, and deans of the faculties of arts, economy and administrative sciences, education, and professors from the Sociology Department.

New law guarantees free press — Izzeddin

AMMAN (Petra) — The current Press and Publication Law is frozen, from the practical point of view, and the government is in the process of issuing a new law which would be inspired by the national charter and backed by the constitution Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin said Tuesday.

"The new Jordanian law on press and publication provides for freedom of expression and opinion, enabling Jordanian journalists to have access to the news sources without any distortion and without any official or unofficial hindrances," said the minister at the opening of a symposium organised by the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation's Information Training Centre.

The new law, he said, will enable the government to set up a higher council for the press designed to determine the extent of coverage of events related to various events, including parliamentary and political party events, in such a manner that would protect the concern of the public and protect the national interest.

According to Mr. Izzeddin, the new press and publication law provides protection to the journalists for preserving the right of concealing the source of their information.

"Under the present democratic transformations in the Kingdom's various institutions, it is unacceptable to discuss the concept of the Jordanian informational policy because it is founded on basic principles and a general framework that defines the work and the role of the Jordanian media in its official and unofficial nature," the minister pointed out.

He said that these basic principles emanate from the very existence of Jordan as a state, its history and people and the role of its institutions.

The minister invited the official information services to exercise their role in freedom, guaranteed by a climate of democracy in the country and to follow the pattern of the local press which now enjoys complete freedom.

The minister discussed a number of administrative matters with the information officials employed by the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and those participating in the three-day symposium.

The meeting will dwell on matters related to the news, news writing, the responsibility of the script writer and the editor and means of utilising modern techniques in presenting the news.

The corporation director, along with the director of television and radio stations and several academicians, will deliver lectures to the meeting.

Qatanani voices concern over Israeli oppressive measures

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department Ahmad Qatanani Tuesday voiced concern over the Israeli oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying that the international community is watching closely, but is doing nothing to put an end to such practices.

At a meeting with a United Nations fact-finding mission, currently on a visit to Jordan to investigate the Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, Dr. Qatanani pointed out to the mounting Israeli oppression of Palestinians and said that the pressure and daily oppressive measures contravened all international charters and conventions on human rights, particularly the 4th Geneva Convention which provides for the protection of civilian population in times of war and of those

under occupation.

He said that 54 per cent of the West Bank land had been seized by the Israeli occupation authorities since 1967. "Last year the Israeli occupation authorities confiscated 162, 170 dunums of land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," Dr. Qatanani added. He went on saying that Israel announced that it would construct 15 new settlements, thus bringing to more than 200 the number of settlements it has so far constructed since its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

Reviewing the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, Dr. Qatanani said that Israel had uprooted more than 20,000 trees, demolished 344 houses, sealed off more than 146 houses, killed more than 247 people and wounded thousands of Palestinians.

He referred to the closures of

schools and universities, saying that three Arab universities in the occupied territories have been and are still closed since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising.

He also referred to the collective punishment practised by Israel against the civilian Palestinian population, noting in this regard that some 1,614 people were under administrative detention and that 5,313 more were given prison sentences, ranging in duration.

The U.N. special committee on human rights was established in 1968 by the United Nations General Assembly to probe into violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. The committee members arrived here Saturday, as part of a tour which will also take them to Syria and Egypt, to collect accurate information on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

U.N. human rights committee investigates Israeli violations

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories is currently on a field mission to Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The committee, which is the principal organ of the United Nations, aims at investigating Israeli violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and monitoring information in the occupied territories.

Witnesses from the occupied territories, with first hand experience, have come to Jordan to testify to the special committee, which comprises representatives of Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia and Senegal. The members arrived in Jordan earlier this week from Syria where they held similar hearings. On Thursday, the committee will head for Egypt.

ing countries, like Jordan, Syria and Egypt, to find the relevant information," Dragan Jovanic, a Yugoslavian professor of law told the Jordan Times.

The committee, which had so far recorded 13 witness testimonies in three days, mostly from the West Bank, noted that there was an escalation of incidents.

Although Mr. Kalpage refrained from revealing detailed information, he said, at the conclusion of last year's committee's 22nd report to the U.N. General Assembly that "the escalation of tension has reached a very dangerous level and could result in a major explosion in the area if urgent measures were not taken in order to remedy the grave human rights violations and ensure an effective protection of basic freedoms and rights."

The report indicated an alarming trend towards the hardening of repression and the worsening of the already precarious human rights conditions of the Palestinians and other Arab civilian population.

No witnesses were made available for interviewing by the Jordan Times, but Mr. Jovanic said "the witnesses were very varied in background. Some are farmers, some businessmen and others are women whose husbands were imprisoned."

The committee acts like a court whereby, "we have to check very carefully that what is being told holds ground," Mr. Jovanic said.

When the fact-finding mission comes to a close, the members submit the results to the secretary general of the U.N. every year. "The report

comprises three separate reports of incidents between September to November, December to March and the last which contains interviews and overall comments," Mr. Kalpage informed. The yearly report then is presented to the U.N. General Assembly.

The special committee, according to the representative, has in the last report called for the full application, by Israel, of the Fourth Geneva Convention: For the protection of civilians in time of war, for the full compliance with all U.N. resolutions related to the Palestine question, the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the U.N. and with the participation of all the parties concerned.

The committee also called for the full cooperation of the Israeli authorities with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and for the support by member states of the activities of the ICRC and of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Since its inception, the committee has presented 22 reports to the General Assembly. "This year's report will be discussed in the 46th General Assembly which meets September through December," Mr. Kalpage said. "What sort of an impact we have is hard to say; we are a fact-finding mission, we record all the facts and present them. It is just another source of information," he said. He added that the mandate of the committee dictates that the representatives keep working until there is a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.



MINISTER ATTENDS OPENING SESSION OF A WORKSHOP ON FORESTRY: A three-day workshop on operational planning and monitoring has ended in the Department of Afforestation and Forests. This workshop, organised within the framework of technical cooperation between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of forestry, provided the department with a sound assessment of the information needs that are to be collected through a monitoring system. Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh showed active interest in the results of the workshop. He was briefed by each of the three working groups set up for discussing and planning the different tasks of the department which include, among others, the production of seven million forest tree seedlings which provide the basis for a yearly afforestation of 20,000 dunums. The monitoring system for these activities is to be set up in the coming months. It will help the department supervise the sustainable utilisation and conservation of the nation's valuable natural resources of forests, wildlife and rangeland.

Symposium tackles agricultural policies

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh Tuesday said that the best exploitation of Jordan's agricultural resources posed a great challenge to the Kingdom.

Addressing the first in a series of five symposia on agricultural resources and labour force in Jordan, Mr. Alawneh said the symposia aimed at discussing agricultural policies in Jordan.

"These symposia pave the way for a national conference on agriculture, which will be held in September, with the aim of coming up with a consensus on the future march of agriculture in Jordan," Mr. Alawneh said.

The minister expressed appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the German Technical Cooperation Corporation (GTZ) for their support for such symposia "which form a good ground for the discussions at the conference."

Taking part in the symposium were a number of experts on agriculture from both the private and public sectors in Jordan.

French orientalist holds lectures on literary criticism

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Paris-based French scholar is currently in Jordan delivering lectures on Arabic and French literature and meeting with prominent Jordanian intellectuals to discuss his work in Arab and foreign countries.

Dr. Luc Barbusco has already addressed an audience at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation on aspects of literary criticism and plans to participate in a seminar at Yarmouk University Wednesday when he will hold discussions with his audience.

Dr. Barbusco who was educated in France, Egypt and Tunisia has translated into French works of Arab writers including Eduard Kharat, Youssef Idrees, Nabil Naoum and Elias Khouri.

In his lecture at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Dr. Barbusco tried to demonstrate that behind the face value of a text, he hidden meanings and symbols of a more "understandable" text. "Every important text must be considered as a front page with an underlined text. The real work of the critic is to find out which is the underlined text," Dr. Barbusco said.

Dr. Barbusco said his visit to the region was "to try to establish a bridge between Europeans and Arabs in the neo-colonial period." He said he intended to deepen his knowledge in the Arabic culture and broaden his interest in the Middle East.

Communique sums up minutes of trade discussions between Jordan, Indonesia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Indonesia have in principle agreed on setting up a plant to produce phosphate-based phosphoric acid which would be marketed in Jordan and Indonesia, with the surplus going to other countries, but the project has first to be approved by the concerned Indonesian authorities, according to a communique issued Tuesday at the conclusion of a five-day visit to Jordan by an Indonesian trade delegation.

The communique summed up the minutes of deliberations conducted by the Jordanian and Indonesian sides over the past five days during which they reviewed scopes of cooperation in trade and joint ventures.

The Indonesian delegation, which was led by Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar, toured Jordanian businesses, industries and the port of Aqaba as well as the Arab Potash Company plant and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, and held trade talks

with Jordanian officials and businessmen at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

According to the communique, the Indonesian side agreed to conduct a study on the prospect of benefiting from the Jordanian free zones and the Sahab Industrial City as a centre for assembling Indonesian manufactured goods and also to benefit from warehouses in Aqaba and the free zones to store Indonesian goods exported to Jordan or neighbouring Arab states.

Indonesia agreed to import additional quantities of Jordanian potash and phosphate and approved the idea of reaching a long term agreement with Jordan on importing Jordanian phosphate, according to the minutes.

The two sides agreed to take part in international trade fairs, which could be held in either country, to study the prospect of setting trade centres or trade offices in Amman and Jakarta

and encourage the exchange of visits by trade groups to bolster cooperation in trade and industry.

According to the Indonesian minister, the volume of products exchanged by the two countries amounts to \$70 million, with Jordan exporting \$55 million worth of products to Indonesia annually.

According to the communique, the two sides agreed to hold a meeting for the joint Jordanian-Indonesian Trade Committee in the second half of this year.

The minutes were signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz and the Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar.

The Indonesian delegation, which later Tuesday left Amman, had displayed samples of Indonesian products at the Amman Marriott Hotel during their stay and invited Jordanian businessmen to inspect the goods and discuss trade.

Environment protection workshop opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day workshop to discuss matters related to the protection of the environment in Jordan will be opened Wednesday by Ahmad Obaidat, chairman of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP).

Organised by the society, in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung Foundation of Germany, the workshop is intended to spread awareness among members of the public in matters related to the environment protection from pollution, according to a society member.

The workshop is to be addressed by several lecturers who will dwell on matters related to the pollution of the environment and its impact on human health, desertification, the role of the media in spreading information about the environment, agriculture in Jordan, disposal of refuse and the role of government and non-government organisations in curbing pollution of the environment.

According to the society members, further activities in this regard will be held and will involve

various sectors of the Jordanian population ranging from politicians to teachers, from police officers to women groups.

The society, which groups 1,500 members, seeks to bolster cooperation with specialised international organisations that could provide financial and technical support to promote its activities in the Kingdom. Society officials said, the workshop Wednesday will be entitled "Environment and the Media" because it concerns the involvement of the media in spreading awareness among the public.

Amman to sell some \$1.5 million worth of its national products on an annual basis, Mr. Badran said.

He said Jordan had been displaying such products as plastic, electric appliances, medicine, chemical and supply goods.

According to Mr. Badran, the Jordanian delegation at the opening ceremony held talks with officials at the Tunisian Ministry of National Economy and Foreign Affairs on ways of boosting trade and economic cooperation.

120 Jordanian firms at Tunisian fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 120 Jordanian industrial firms are taking part in a ten-day trade fair which opened in Tunis last Friday to promote the sale of national products on the Tunisian markets, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran.

The fair, the sixth of its kind to be organised in Tunis, is expected to sell \$1.5 million worth of Jordanian products, and is being held in implementation of a

Tunisian-Jordanian trade agreement reached in 1986, according to Mr. Badran in a statement upon returning to Amman from Tunis.

The fairs are being organised in a bid to orient the Tunisian public on the type and quality of the Jordanian goods and to open the way for Jordanian businessmen to conclude direct deals with Tunisian merchants, said Mr. Badran.

In return, Tunisia has been holding trade fairs of its own in

Fashion and design exhibition displays all-Jordanian-made goods

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Fair Centre near the University of Jordan last Thursday started displaying various Jordanian-made clothes at its second fashion and design exhibition.

Several Jordanian companies specialising in textiles, fabrics and clothes all "made in Jordan" have their products on display.

The average daily turn-out of people at the exhibition reaches 7,000, which creates many sales opportunities for the different local companies and factories, the owner and general manager of the Fair Centre, Amjad Abdel Hadi said. "The fair centre, which always specialises in Jordanian products, is a way of showing the public that there is excellent quality clothing designed and made in Jordan," he said.

"I want Jordanians to go to stores and ask for Jordanian-made products," he added.

Many textile manufacturing companies sell their products at the exhibition while others prefer only to display their goods to potential buyers who would then visit them at their stores.

Most of the products are either sold at cost price or at a discount of up to 50 per cent.

The highlight of the exhibition is the bridal gown area. Jordanian designers made the

gowns to match the high quality imported products at only a fraction of the price.

The exhibition, which was

inaugurated by Director of Industrial Development Dr. Samir Ameish, will continue until May 30.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

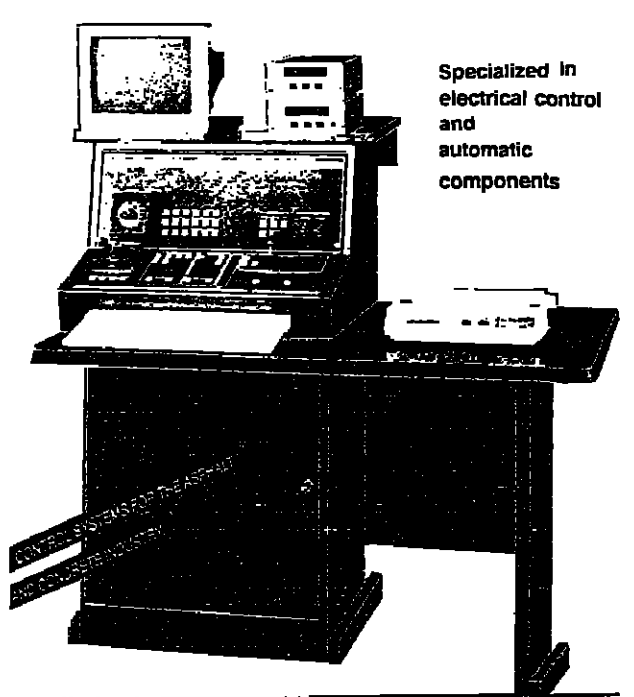
Arabyat presents outcome of Libya visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyat holds a press conference Wednesday (today) to sum up the outcome of his visit to Libya and talk about the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

Jordan, Canada cooperate in nursing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canadian nursing educators have recently presented workshops to nursing administrators, instructors and senior staff nurses in Irbid. The workshops were a part of a four-year collaborative project between the University of Windsor, Canada, and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) through the Canadian International Development Agency. They were held under the patronage of Dr. Rowaida Ma'atiah, the acting dean of the Faculty of Nursing. The objectives of the workshops were: to foster a linkage between theory and clinical courses, to enhance clinical teaching and to improve the measurement of clinical performance.

ASPHALT BATCH PLANT CONTROL SYSTEM



مؤسسة راضي الإلكترونية
Radi Electro Mechanical Co.

Jordan Times

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Crusade yet to begin

From the Guardian

EVERYONE shares the blame, it seems, for the faltering pace of the Mideast "peace process" — except for the superpower which is sponsoring it. The U.S. in the person of James Baker has again assumed the role of disinterested taster in the vineyards of peace which a succession of Secretaries of State from Henry Kissinger onwards have played. There was a familiar sound to the weary resignation with which Mr. Baker on his way back home summed up, on and off the record, his progress. Neither Israel nor Syria really wanted peace talks, and both were using the old "roadblock issues" of the U.N. role and the scope of a peace conference to thwart progress. Jordan was willing to offend the Syrians. Saudi Arabia had proved disappointing, and the clutch of Gulf states had only reluctantly come round. Kuwait had been a pest, but then we all know the Kuwaitis now. Only loyal (and aid-rich) Egypt was willing to join in any sort of peace process anywhere. Oh dear, sighed Mr. Baker, what can a poor fellow do "if Washington wants peace more than the Arabs and the Israelis?"

We need to add a slant of history to this one-dimensional view. It was Mr. Baker and his boss who declared during the run-up to the Gulf War that its successful conclusion would offer a "window of opportunity" for a new peace process. In part their argument was intended to defuse pressure for immediate discussions on the Middle East — Saddam's unacceptable "linkage." But there was also a sense of realism, also felt in Whitehall, that the setting of this account was seriously overdue and the West shared responsibility for it. Mr. Baker (and Mr. Hurd) implied that there would be some serious arm-twisting after the war, and that Israel would have to adjust to the new mood of international resolve.

Where is the resolve now? There is only sorrow, no anger, at the new roadblocks, and no self-questioning about the part played by the war — our war — in making the ground perhaps harder, not more fertile, for peace. Those who predicted that Israel would not move because its position would be stronger, not weaker, after the Gulf War, have also been proved unhappily right. Of course Mr. Shamir will finesse his hand to avoid being blamed for sabotaging the peace process, just as the Palestinians will whistle hopefully in the wind. Mr. Shamir, as the Labour opposition daily *Davar* put it last week, is a master at "turning all sorts of marginal procedural issues into questions of life and death." Yet even the issues which inflame the situation — emigration and settlements, the violations of Palestinian human rights — remain unchallenged by effective U.S. diplomacy.

Take too the role now played by Syria, whom Israel accuses of seeking to "swallow up Lebanon" and last week was widely alleged to have halted the peace process. It was only to be expected that Syria would seek to strengthen its influence in the Lebanon as a reward for joining the allied coalition. Indeed its peace efforts in the Lebanon have been tacitly supported by Washington. The portrayal of Syria as a trouble-maker because it calls for the participation of the U.N. in a Middle East conference is also distinctly odd. Is not that exactly what the Security Council endorsed last December?

This enterprise will founder without a concerted effort which must involve both the U.N. and the regional organisations of Europe and the Arab world. Mr. Baker has been tacking to and fro, but the real crusade for peace has yet to be launched.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FORCES hostile to the Arab Nation do not harbour enmity towards just one Arab country, but rather towards the whole nation; and for this reason time has come for solidarity and for a collective stand needed to overcome these enemies and their hostile designs, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. His Majesty King Hussein's latest speech delivered to the Royal War College graduates underlined this important fact, and represented a fervent call on the Arabs to unite and to foil enemy designs, the paper noted. The first step towards healing the wounds among the Arab states lies in diagnosing the ills and the problems plaguing the Arabs before embarking on meaningful action designed to bring together the Arab heads of state and pooling the Arab countries' resources for attaining the common goals, the paper noted. All Arab countries large or small are targeted by the common enemies, and it is a matter of time when this can materialise; so it is incumbent on all Arabs to rise to the level of responsibility towards serving the national interests and safeguarding Arab rights and lands, the paper continued. The paper noted that a year has passed since King Hussein delivered his address at the Baghdad Arab summit, outlining to the Arab heads of state the real situation in the Arab World and warning of the looming dangers. In that address the King presented a diagnosis of the Arab countries ills and issued a warning to the nation to beware of the hidden dangers, the paper said. It said that in his address to the war college graduates, King Hussein reminded his audience of his earlier warnings and again reflected on the present situation calling for unity and concerted efforts to help protect national interests and achieve national objectives.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, Mahmoud Al Rimawi says by helping to transport thousands of Jews from Ethiopia to occupied Palestine. Washington has thus contributed in a direct manner to the Israeli settlement policy, helping the Jewish state to implement its long sought programmes of filling the occupied Arab land with Jews brought from Europe and other parts of the world. The writer says that the American contribution is bound to help Yitzhak Shamir and his supporters to fulfil the dream of creation of a greater Israel in the midst of the Arab region and at the expense of Arab interests and lands because it means providing human elements to achieve that goal.

Economic Forum

The train of banking reform: Zooming along

THE high-gear eighties were traumatic to the Jordanian banking system as they were almost to every other system in the world including the American one. The 1989 currency crisis delayed the start of this reform which was bound to come up anyway. The Petra Bank case was the inaugural step in this respect. In the regular meeting held between the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan and top Jordanian bankers last Wednesday, the bank governor Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi made it very clear that this reform would start very soon and would continue in earnest.

According to what Dr. Nabulsi said, banking reform will proceed in four major avenues: Establishment of a deposit insurance corporation, mergers, restructuring banks' capital and updating banking legislation.

The creation of a deposit insurance corporation apparently takes on special urgency and is therefore accorded top priority. Obviously this has been one very harsh and valuable lesson learnt from the dilemma of the Petra Bank. In the past, the official opinion was split towards the need or otherwise for this corporation, but it is not any more. If such a corporation were there, the heavy burden of redeeming the Petra Bank deposits would have not been shouldered squarely by an already state-mated treasury. Practical measures to set up a deposit insurance

system are underway and the related corporation will be operational by the onset of 1992.

Bank merger is the second avenue of reform. The basic question to be answered here is whether merger should be voluntary or compulsory. There are very conflicting arguments here. The odds are that the monetary authorities will settle for a policy based on forcing mergers among faltering banking institutions and leaving voluntary mergers to successful ones aspiring for creating stronger banking units.

The third channel of reform is restructuring the capital of banking institutions and is designed to mainly back up mergers. Where merger is not applied or sought, the capital of the concerned banking units will be raised to no less than a certain mandatory level. The figure suggested here is JD10 million instead of the present JD5 million which is believed to have become outdated. If the Central Bank goes ahead with capital restructuring, the respective banks will be given adequate time to adjust their capital.

The cases of Jordan Gulf Bank, Bank Al Mashrek and the Syrian Jordanian Bank were to exemplify the second and third avenues of reform. These three banks were to be merged together but at the last hour the Syrian Jordanian Bank was put to liquidation within the Jordan Gulf Bank. The latter will later be

merged with Bank Al Mashrek in one unit whose capital is to be raised to around JD10 million. Both banks have now a negative net worth.

Last is updating the banking legislation. Some laws governing banking activity were enacted 25 years ago and remained unchanged thereafter not withstanding the deep changes which have stormed the economy and the banking fabric. The Central Bank is now most concerned with the Foreign Exchange Control law of 1967 which is a typical example of a toothless legislation as it provides for very soft penalties which encourage violation of its provisions more than they inspire abidance by them. A draft for a new law was distributed in the meeting. In introducing this draft, the governor was so much concerned with pointing out very emphatically that the draft law will not envisage any new controls but will solely provide for stiffer penalties.

Yes, banking reform has actually kicked off. Its success will need not only resolve, moral courage and diligent work but also time, as it will not be completed in the course of several months or one year. Discontinuity threatens economic policies in less developed countries as gravely as any other dangers. Let us then make sure that we will have the right men at the right places throughout such time to see to it that the mission of reform will be satisfactorily accomplished.

Arabia Decepta revisited

By Mohammad Zakaria

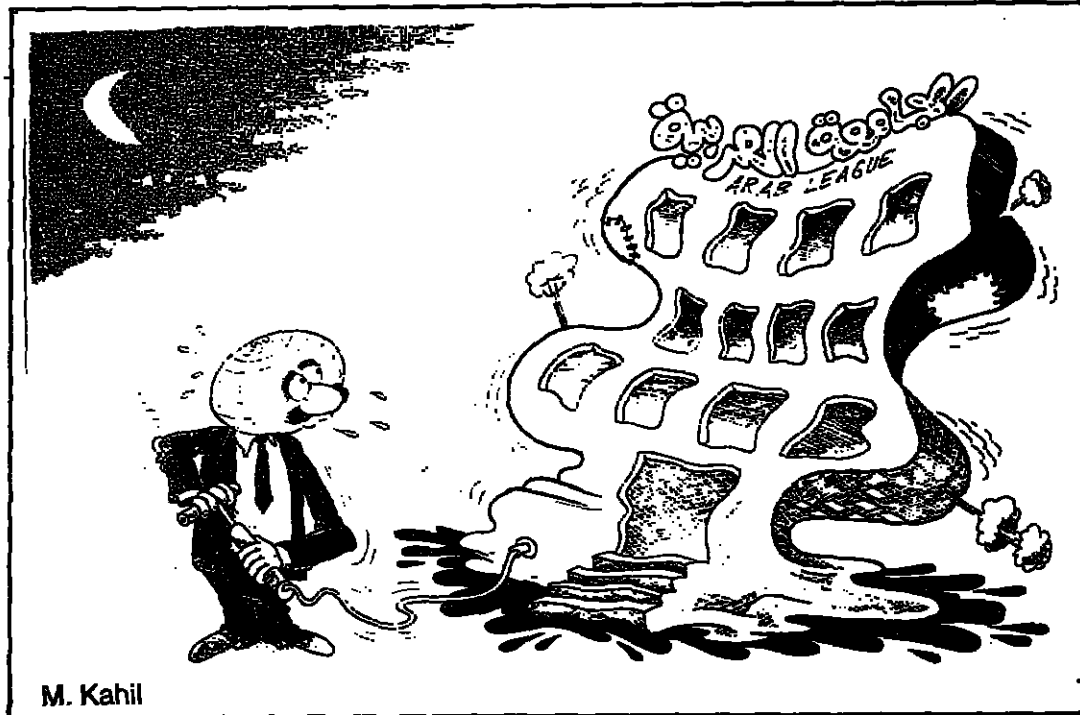
AFTER the 1967 war, Time magazine ran an article entitled "Arabia Decepta" in which it attempted to analyse the causes of the Arab armies' dramatic defeat before the Israeli army. The main point was that the Arabs were living in a mirage world of past glories and unwarranted ambitions to destroy Israel. Moreover, the Arabs were the prisoners of a language whose rhetoric always bridged the gap between the realities of sheer idleness and the illusions of grandiose accomplishments. To illustrate this last point, Time gave the example of an Egyptian song, very popular in those days, which went "We said we were going to build the High Dam, and here we are: 'We've built the High Dam.'"

It is scarcely necessary to point out the inanity of this argument. Thus in another world, with the Arabs victorious over Israel, the same song could conceivably be cited as an example of gleeful optimism and unshaken self-confidence. Suffice it to say here that military conquests have not been correlated in any significant way with such indexes as language, culture and so forth. Throughout history, military victories have been scored by all kinds of systems and non-systems, and all gradations in between. A specific example would be the smashing victories of Nazi Germany, with its repugnant ideology, over France, in those days the bastion of western culture. No German or French song could come to rescue Time's theory here.

Now that we are living the aftermath of the Gulf war, with its bitterness, indignation and sometimes total apathy, it is quite natural for people to ask questions similar to that posed by Time. The Gulf war has been compared to the "six-day war," and the defeat of Iraq (and by extension, that of the Arabs) has been traced back to a myriad of factors. Some writers have cited the absence of democracy as a crucial factor in Iraq's defeat. Others have deplored the unnecessary military spending, and have held that since you were going to be defeated anyway, you would do well to divert defence funds to development projects.

A closer look at the Gulf war, however, shows that it is different from '67 in a number of important ways. First, there was no doubt from the very beginning that Iraq was going to receive a crushing military defeat. Cut off from the rest of the world, surrounded by a formidable array of all kinds of forces, way behind in super technology, Iraq was bound to give in, and it was only a matter of time before it did so. Even the U.S. with its might and unlimited resources would have been utterly devastated under comparable pressure. Thus the Arabs of January 1991 did not quite experience the stunning shock of June '67.

Secondly, unlike '67, the Gulf war could not be construed as a total Arab defeat. However one is inclined to think of it, some Arab countries emerged technically victorious. The fact that the U.S. did it for them is besides the point. The Israeli victory of '67 was made possible through all kinds of help and support from the western world. The stigma of total Arab humiliation, therefore, does not apply to the Gulf war.



M. Kahil

Thirdly, and most importantly, the ties of Arab brotherhood, based on claims of consanguinity, have been put to the most strenuous test in their short history of less than a century. (The term "Arab" was used at the turn of this century to refer to bedouins only). With due recognition of other possible analyses, one could look at the Gulf crisis scenario as a series of overreactions stirred by the dictates of consanguinity. According to this view, Iraq could not believe that a sister state like Kuwait could double-cross it in the international oil market at a time when Iran was moaning under the weight of its debt. Kuwait was flabbergasted to see the armies of a sister state pounding the palaces of its royal family. The Gulf states, watching consanguinity crumble at their borders, were terrified of the spectre of being next, and rushed looking for the first available help. As this was unfolding, other Arabs thought it was unbrotherly of the Gulf states to bring in foreign troops, and they branded the Gulf states with treason and disloyalty to the Arab cause.

The vacuity of the claim that the absence of democracy has been instrumental in bringing about the defeat of Iraq can be shown by again going over the victories of sometimes sheer barbaric nations, which litter the historical landscape. Indeed, there have been quite cogent arguments that a democratic system could stand in the way of the proper conduct of war. Many democratic states resorted to clearly undemocratic measures in times of crisis and war. John Kennedy, in his *Why England Slept*, wondered whether democracy could stand the brunt of war, and he took it up against the British political parties that before World War II they had voted down all attempts to match the German armament programme. This argument is not intended as a repudiation of democratic life, however.

Some writers have suggested that democracy and adequate military preparedness are incompatible, overlooking the fact that Iraq has just been attacked and defeated by democratic and well-armed nations. It is the function of every government to provide security for its people. No nation could afford to live in a dream world of democracy and development projects only to be knocked out, along with its democracy and projects, by the next mad man it runs into. If anything, Iraq has not invested enough in armament (and

democracy). It seems to me that the question of military victory or defeat is primarily a function of the extent of military preparedness, and that of course includes arrangements for regional and international support.

Take the Gulf states. They have maintained their security through a series of ad hoc arrangements which have proved costly and difficult to maintain. First they had to deal with Nasser's ambitions, then Iranian claims during the Shah and now, and lastly, but definitely not finally, Iraq. It won't be long before they will call in the "United Nations" for a new avuncular stint to rescue them from some bad-dies.

The Gulf states and the rest of the Arabs should understand that they are their own best allies. Which brings us back to the question of consanguinity. As we have seen, the emotions generated by consanguinity ties may have been responsible for the tragic events of the Gulf war. Neither has consanguinity been helpful during peace time. While there have been attempts at creating token arrangements of cooperation, federation and unity, the sad fact is that the orientation and main drive of the Arab states has been centrifugal rather than centripetal. To be sure, the Arab states have benefited enormously from rubbing elbows with more advanced nations, but in many cases this escapist behaviour has reflected an aversion to the unreasonable demands of consanguinity. The billions of petrodollars invested outside the Arab World could have created (and still could create!) Spartan Edens if channelled back into the Arab World. The various ideological and cultural affiliations with foreign powers, as possible substitutes for indigenous cultures, has resulted in a double loss: The foreign ideologies could not be successfully transplanted into the Arab World, and the native cultures were let to stagnate and lose their social force.

Communication and transportation across and over Arab boundaries have always met some inexplicable obstacles. An important area where consanguinity has been especially counterproductive is the so-called nationalist thought. Students of Arab nationalism have not failed to notice its racial (and perhaps racist) overtones. Given the fact that many Middle Eastern ethnic groups firmly believe they do not descend from Arabic ancestors, it was hardly sur-

prising that nationalist thought started bumping into Middle Eastern realities uproariously and explosively.

Consanguinity may be a double-edged sword, an unaffordable apparition that has to be looked into. Suppose that we start by redefining the term "Arab." As noted earlier, this term was introduced in its present denotation at the turn of the century. Suppose that we consider an Arab as any person who lives in the Arab World as defined on the map, and who is loyal to that Arab World. This "geographical belonging" approach would make "Arab" a technical term and free the spirits of the new Arabs from the shackles and worries of descent. Initially, it could meet with some difficulties, but with the passage of time, as the term "Arab" is stripped off its racial (and perhaps racist) connotations, many formerly "non-Arab" groups would perceive themselves as Arabs in much the same way that ethnic Mexicans, Greeks, Russians, and so forth, consider themselves as Americans.

The Arab states have to work together under a simple formula. They can't afford to continue being considered as "strategic points," a euphemism for spots foreign powers could move into whenever they choose. The should regulate their relations on the basis of rules and regulations formulated and implemented by technocrats who have relegated considerations of sanguinity to the realm of private emotions. They can then decide what course of action they will follow: war or peace. As things stand now, the Israeli military monster would have to bend really hard to reach the upward pointed hand of the Arab dwarf.

An example of a consanguinity-free approach would have the other Arab states argue convincingly, and in cold business terms, that it is more feasible for the Gulf states to invest in the Arab World. With this new geographical outlook, the Arabs could look towards a world where the Gulf war and its memories just don't belong. They would tread the path of war or peace sure-footed and with no deception visus. Come to think of it, a new system along "geographical belonging" line could provide a neat and pleasant solution to the perennial Palestine question.

The writer is assistant professor of English at the Higher College for Teacher Certification in Amman.

LETTERS

Glance at the mirror

To the Editor:

AN interesting juxtaposition on the op-ed page of your May 21 edition.

Above, Rami Khouri's emotional anti-Western blast, megaphoned down from Fourth Circle. His theme, that the West is to blame for the ills and disarray of the Arab World, is wearisomely familiar. This week's logic, that the West is principally responsible, if certain Arab governments choose to spend a massive proportion of their GNP on armaments, reaches new levels of the bizarre.

Below, George Shadroff's reasoned plea for writers such as Mr. Khouri to stop shading the buck. I cannot do better than quote his own words: "Those who seek to blame the West and Israel for all (their ills) have either lost touch with reality or hope to further mislead the Arab masses in order to protect their own interest in the status quo."

I would not for a second impute the latter motive to Mr. Khouri, whom I regard as a writer of integrity. But could it be the former? Again, I quote Mr. Shadroff: "It is time Arabs stopped bemoaning imperialism and Israeli conspiracies and ... took a hard look in the mirror."

Would you permit yourself at least a glance next time you shave, Mr. Khouri?

George Hatfield;
Mo'ategem St.,
Jabal Amman,
Amman.

Clear assessment

The following letter was addressed by the President of the American Arab Anti-discrimination committee, Albert Mokhiber, to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on May 23, 1991.

Dear Secretary Baker:

Your frank and honest testimony yesterday (May 22) before the House Appropriations subcommittee is greatly appreciated by the membership of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). We fully agree with your clear assessment that the ongoing establishment of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is the main bar to peace.

We believe that your reiteration of longstanding U.S. policy opposing these settlements as violating international and domestic law must be buttressed with additional concrete steps which are required in order to bring the Israeli government to fully comprehend the gravity of their illegal behaviour.

In particular, we urge the U.S. to immediately suspend aid to Israel by an amount equal to that which they spend on settlement projects — approximately \$1 billion for 1990-1993.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this and other issues germane to the peace process.

On May 15, 1991 Mr. Mokhiber sent the following letter to Mr. Richard Schifter, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Dear Mr. Schifter:

I am writing on behalf of Khaled Mohammad Zuhair Tbayleh, a Palestinian administrative detainee held in the Ansar III prison in the Negev. We are informed by relatives of Mr. Tbayleh that his health is very poor and he is in urgent need of medical care. In addition, he is being held under conditions that do not meet even minimum standards for sanitation and health. It is feared that his life is in danger.

We respectfully request that this case be reviewed by your office and also that you secure a guarantee from the Israeli authorities that Mr. Tbayleh receive thorough diagnosis and treatment of his medical problems.

Mr. Tbayleh, age 30, a native of Nabulus, is a political activist, who has been imprisoned several times. When he was released in 1989, he entered the hospital of the Women's Union and was treated by Dr. Mamdouh al Akkar, who removed his left testicle. He followed up his treatment at the Hadassa Hospital. Later in London he was treated for several months. It may be that Mr. Tbayleh is suffering from cancer.

After returning to Nabulus, he was detained again on Jan. 24, 1990. He was sent to Tulkarom prison, but the prison director refused to accept him as a prisoner, because of the deterioration of his health. Nabulus central prison also refused to accept him. He was then sent to Ansar III. During this time no charges were made against him.

When his sister, Dr. Salam Tbayleh, visited him, he asked to be transferred to a prison where he can receive adequate medical care. He feels that his life is severely threatened by imprisonment at Ansar with its unsanitary conditions and high desert temperatures. His sister has appealed to the Red Cross and to international human rights organisations.

As time is of the essence in this critical matter of life and death, we ask for your prompt intervention. Looking forward to your reply.

مكتبة الأصل

Pan-Arab conference resumes

(Continued from page 1)

ral weakness no matter how strong its repressive potentials are," he said.

Dr. Sharabi also put forth a set of recommendations which include strengthening the role of private organisations, especially those concerned with human rights, and increasing the participation of the people in social and public issues.

Dr. Kheir Eddin Hassib, the director of the Beirut-based Arab Unity Studies Centre which is organising the conference, called on intellectuals to boycott any country that has an extensive record of violating the human rights of its people.

"We should never compromise democracy and human rights in order to reach other goals," he said.

Mr. Maen Bashour, a Lebanese thinker, said that he felt most people in the Arab World were shying away from the human rights issue because of its connection to American claims in the area.

"They (Arab masses) feel that it is an imported ideology, which is used by America whenever it feels that this issue could serve a political end," he said.

The participants then went on to propose sets of recommendations in a session entitled "What can be done?"

Al Sayed Yassin, an Egypt-

tian thinker and secretary general of the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum, proposed that the conference follow up on the continuing embargo against Iraq, calling it "an orchestrated crime, aimed at killing a brother Arab nation, and violating in its nature international law and legitimacy." He said that the party should raise the issue at the United Nations and strongly call for lifting the "harsh, one-sided U.N. sanctions against Iraq."

Ahmad Sudqi Dajani, a former member of the PLO executive committee, stressed the need to integrate the Arab World in a new world order that is based on social justice.

"The new world order because it is not built on social justice," he said.

Dr. Tareq Ismael, a participant from Iraq, called on the conference to concentrate on the present threat against Iraq, saying "they (allies) are uprooting the Iraqi people; our problems now are represented by Iraq. (The country) is calling for your help; we are faced with inevitable death unless you do something about the situation."

Riyad Al-Rayess, an Arab publisher based in London, called for "lifting censorship on Arab books and the written word generally."

PLO delegation meets Assad

(Continued from page 1)

Arab unity in advance of any Middle East peace talks. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharras attended Tuesday's meeting between Assad and the PLO delegation, which met earlier with Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Along with Kaddoumi and

Abed Rabbo, a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the delegation also included two other ranking members of the PLO's executive committee — Abu Ali Mustafa of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Sulaiman Al Najjab of the Palestine Communist Party.

Israeli soldiers kill 2 Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

against Israeli occupation. An army official said an officer whose car was ambushed in the

area by local youths throwing stones and petrol bombs had fired in self-defence, killing one youth and wounding a second.

Ethiopian rebels take Addis Ababa

(Continued from page 1)

Ethiopia. "No democracy — no cooperation," he said. Cohen said he hoped a transitional government would eventually be formed to prepare for a free, democratic, internationally-monitored election in nine to 12 months.

He urged all parties involved to cooperate with international famine relief efforts and called on the world community to "make all possible efforts to help maintain essential services and continue providing relief assistance."

It should also consider a general amnesty except for acts "constituting violations of the laws of war or international human rights," he said.

He said Addis Ababa should be demilitarised as soon as possible and hostilities throughout Ethiopia, devastated by famines and 30 years of civil war, should cease.

He also said the United States supported self-determination for Eritrea but stopped short of endorsing its independence.

Casualties in Addis Ababa appeared to be light, with only about five corpses lying in the palace compound.

Doctors said more than 100 civilians had been wounded, some of them in firing by govern-

ment troops on the eve of the battle.

Reports of shooting in the city on Monday as government authority crumbled prompted the rebels to move in earlier than planned after issuing a "surrender-or-die" ultimatum.

"We do not want to be delayed by a dead government," said Arkebe Obxay, a political commissar of the EPRDF.

Sporadic firing continued on Tuesday until nightfall, when electricity was restored after a 24-hour break.

The rebels, using Soviet-supplied weapons captured from the army during years of civil war, flushed out the remnants of Mengistu's North Korean-trained guard.

Smoke billowed from fires, but most buildings and homes escaped unscathed.

There was no word of acting President Tesfaye Gabre Kidan, who was seen in the palace by a U.S. diplomat on Monday.

Tesfaye had ordered a ceasefire on Monday but his troops ignored him.

The EPRDF is known to have a list of former administration officials it wants to round up, raising fears of reprisal killings. But Halemom said his men would protect life and key installations and prevent looting.

Bush hails Gibran in dedication ceremony

By M. C. Jaspersen
USIA

WASHINGTON — President Bush called anew for peace in the Middle East as he dedicated a memorial here May 24 to the world-famous, Lebanese-American poet-philosopher Kahlil Gibran.

"We see the need to renew Gibran's message of tolerance and compassion for a world too often at odds, rather than at peace," the president declared.

"Perhaps nowhere is this more important than in the Middle East, Gibran's homeland where peace still wanders as the region's prodigal son," Bush added.

He called it "a cruel irony that those lands now suffer strife and hatred and fear," when the region "gave us a symbol of peace in Gibran," who was born in Besherr, Lebanon in 1883 and died in New York City in 1931.

Bush said that he considered it "an honour ... to be asked to dedicate this garden to a man who has done so much for poetry and, through poetry, for all of us."

He called the memorial a tribute to Gibran's "legacy — his belief in brotherhood, his call for compassion, and, perhaps above all, his passion for peace."

He continued: "We must strive to turn this bitter cycle of demanding 'an eye for an eye' into one of offering 'a hand for a hand,' the president said of the strife in the Middle East.

"We shall continue our efforts to help bring peace back home to this vital and historic part of the world so that some day its 'bread of affliction' may become 'bread cast upon the waters.'"

Lebanese Ambassador Nassib Lahoud, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker also participated in the official dedication ceremony.

Senator Mitchell's mother is of Lebanese origin, and Rep. Oaker is also of Lebanese ancestry.

Lahoud said Lebanon was "determined" to "resume her rightful place among the free sovereign nations of the world, and to go back to being the oasis of peace which President Bush has personally known, and often talked about."

The ambassador said his country wanted to share with Americans "this friendship and this partnership of the spirit, never better reflected than in the enlightened works of Kahlil Gibran." The government of Lebanon has sent 12 of Gibran's original illustrations from "The Prophet" to be exhibited at Library of Congress beginning May 25.

Rep. Oaker (Democrat of Ohio), told the largely Arab American crowd assembled in a wooded glen off Massachusetts Avenue in the prestigious "Embassy Row" section of Washington, where the Kahlil Memorial Garden is located, that the memorial stands as a "source of enormous pride to all of us" as Arab Americans.

She called Gibran the "poet laureate" of the Arab World and reminded the ceremony attendees that it was Gibran who had written the famous words used to inspire Americans by President John F. Kennedy, when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

"Let no people say that the people of the Middle East are not

for peace. We are," said Oaker, who worked tirelessly for years to lead through Congress the legislation that would establish the memorial on federal parkland.

Senator Mitchell (Democrat of Maine), said it was "fitting" that the memorial should be established in the capital city of the nation, one that has "been a haven to people of all nations."

The senator, chief sponsor of the legislation for the memorial in the Senate, said immigrants such as Gibran had "enriched" the United States immeasurably.

As Flip Wilson — a famous actor, long-time devotee of Gibran's work, and tireless worker for the memorial — read a passage of Gibran's poetry, he urged everyone attending the dedication to read the passage in unison.

The United States Marine Corps Band played the hymn "America the Beautiful" as the water rose from the fountain for the first time, and the crowd read Gibran's words: "I love you, my brother, whoever you are ... Whether you worship in your church, kneel in your temple, or pray in your mosque."

"You and I are children of one faith ... fingers of the loving hand of one Supreme Being, a hand extended to all ..."

After the official dedication ceremony, a reception and a luncheon were held on Capitol Hill, to celebrate the fruition of the nine-year endeavour.

Flip Wilson read from the works of Gibran. His eyes filled with tears and voice breaking, he recited — totally from memory — the poem, "I Spoke with my Soul." Many in the Audience were moved to tears, as well.

It was only then that listeners



Gibran Kahlil Gibran

understood how his reading of the Gibran works had so moved the House of Representatives that they had passed the enabling legislation which led to construction of the memorial.

The idea for the memorial garden, which has two fountains of falling water with granite walkways, was conceived nine years ago, and nurtured by the founder of the Kahlil Gibran Centennial Foundation's Sheryl Dekour

Ameen. It was she who organised the foundation in 1983, and would not let the concept of a memorial rest until its completion.

William Baroody, chairman of the board and president of the Kahlil Gibran Centennial Foundation and credited with ceaseless, diligent fundraising for the memorial, served as master of ceremonies at the dedication.

NATO approves rapid force

(Continued from page 1)

up of troops from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain, would be air-mobile, the officials said.

The fourth would probably be under Italian command and consist of forces from NATO countries on the Mediterranean.

The troops would probably be backed by U.S. warplanes, helicopters and logistic support. The corps also will include naval support, but details have yet to be

worked out.

A multinational planning staff at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium will draw up contingency plans for using the corps. NATO's force restructuring is expected to be completed by 1995.

The new corps would not be the first unit deployed in a crisis. NATO officials said air defences and other equipment would be sent initially to any NATO ally in Europe under threat.

Saudi psychologist gauges life with realistic scale

Reuter

RIYADH — Saudi psychologist Jawahir Al Abdel Jabbar has crossed many of the traditional barriers for women in this conservative Muslim society.

Sitting alone and unveiled in her office at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, she counsels Saudi couples on all aspects of their marital problems — including sex.

Jabbar says her male patients, who include bearded religious men, do not raise their eye-brows or demand to see a male doctor. But female patients who seek her male colleagues sometimes ask to switch to a woman doctor.

"Nobody objects or says they want a male doctor or they can't talk about private matters ... even the religious men," she said in an interview.

Jabbar, a divorcee in her 30s with two daughters, went to government schools, then attended college in the United States.

She was offered a fellowship abroad after receiving her doctorate in clinical psychology from London University five years ago, but decided to return to Riyadh to work instead.

"It was very important to me that my daughters should have

the opportunity to learn their language, their religion and their social values in this country," she said.

"I'm a Saudi, I belong to this country — there are things I don't like and will do my best to help change, but whatever the circumstances, I consider myself a citizen."

Women in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam may not drive and seldom venture out-doors without a veil, an abaya (concealing black cloak), or a male relative. Sexes are strictly segregated.

Jabbar said the restrictions were more the outcome of strong social tradition than of Islam itself, which set rules to protect women and orphans when it was founded 14 centuries ago.

But she said there was no point in trying to force change. A protest in which about 50 Saudi women drove through Riyadh last October led to a new law being passed explicitly banning them from driving, she said. Before, it was an unwritten rule.

"With regard to driving as a social issue, I believe in it and I want it. With regard to the attempt by that group of women, I did not support it at all; I was asked to participate and I refused," she said.

Jabbar said she believed the timing of the unprecedented demonstration was bad because it stirred anger from religious fundamentalists while Saudi Arabia was under threat from Iraq.

The method was also wrong, she said, because nothing could be achieved in Saudi Arabia by confrontation. "When I was younger, I expected a lot of change but now I'm more pragmatic and do things which will not offend but will make the point."

"I shouldn't compare myself to a Western woman because that would be unfair. I compare myself to my mother and my grandmother and to a lot of women in this country," she said.

Saudi Arabia introduced compulsory schooling for girls in the early 1960s, a move opposed by many religious fundamentalists. Officials say only about 2 to 3 per cent of Saudi women now work, mainly in girls' schools or segregated branches of banks or government ministries run by women.

Medicine in the notable exception. In hospitals, Saudi women doctors rub shoulders with male colleagues and Saudi nurses treat male patients. During the Gulf crisis, many Saudi girls responded

to an appeal by King Fahd for more volunteer nurses.

"The fact that you find women here working side by side with men, having the same salaries, opportunities and promotion as men, this is important for us, this is an accomplishment," Jabbar said.

She said the psychological problems which she spoke to Saudi men and women about were the same as in the West, but the symptoms were sometimes different. Unhappy people, especially less educated ones, were often more likely to experience their problem as a physical ache or pain which could not be treated by medicine she said.

Suicide was rare, she said, because it was against Islam. But Saudi women who lacked control over their lives were more prone to depression than Western women, Jabbar said.

"The woman's role in this country is very much related to depression — the way she is looked at, the segregation, the legal system, lack of freedom of movement, choice," she said.

"If she has support from her family they can help, but if they are against her there are problems which we as psychologists can't do much about."

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Garrison 1st woman seed to fall at French Open

PARIS (R) — American Zina Garrison became the first woman's seed to fall at the \$6.6-million French Open Tennis Championships Tuesday when she was beaten in straight sets by 18-year-old Naoko Sawamatsu.

Last year's Wimbledon finalist lost 6-4 6-0 to the Japanese, who is ranked 35th in the world.

Garrison, who reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros on her first appearance in 1982 but who has never done as well since, is more at ease on faster surfaces than the slow clay in Paris.

Her young opponent was thrilled by her victory. "I'm so happy," she said. "I thought this match would be very tough. Somebody told me I had a chance but Zina is the eighth seed and I thought it was too tough for me. I was so nervous, I couldn't concentrate at first."

Garrison's close friend Lori McNeil, another fast court player, also lost in double quick time, going down 6-2 6-2 to 1989 champion and fifth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain after exactly one hour's play.

Sanchez Vicario was expecting a harder match against an opponent ranked 24th. "I knew she should come to the net so I had to play good passing shots and be aggressive," she said.

"But I felt very good and very confident. I was playing too short at the start of the second set but after that I got my game together again."

Sanchez Vicario went 2-0 down in the set before taking six games in a row to close the match.

Ninth seed Jim Courier, an outside tip for the men's title, cruised into the second round

with a comfortable 6-3 6-3 6-0 victory over Derrick Rostagno in an all-American duel.

The big-hitting courier pinned Rostagno back behind the baseline with his thundering shots and produced a series of drop shot winners. When Rostagno did come into the net, he was invariably beaten by a well-placed topspin lob.

The men's 1988 losing finalist Henri Leconte of France was in impressive form, beating young compatriot Rodolphe Gilbert 6-2 6-1 6-1.

In the women's singles, Steffi Graf of Germany put aside any thoughts of frustration at the unusual experience of coming into a tournament as only second seed by disposing of Magdalena Maleeva, youngest of the three sisters, 6-3 7-6.

Graf, who could get back her number one ranking from defending champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, said: "I am a different person than I was last year. I wasn't into the tournament last year. I am more eager now and I think I am playing better than this time last year."

McEnroe, Gilbert defeated John McEnroe probably made his last appearance at Roland Garros Monday, beaten by Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union on the opening day.

The 15th seed, whose tennis has taken second place to his new baby daughter, took the first set comfortably before being steadily outmanoeuvred by Cherkasov's passing shots.

He was finally overwhelmed, losing a fourth set tiebreaker without taking a single point in a 2-6 6-4 7-5 7-6 defeat.

McEnroe was one of only two seeds to lose on the opening day of the centenary tournament in Paris, fellow-American Brad Gilbert also bowing out to young Frenchman Cedric Pioline 6-4 2-6 6-1 6-4.

But it was a better day for some of their more prominent countrymen. Fourth seed Andre Agassi and 1989 champion Michael Chang won stylishly and the veteran of the field Jimmy Connors, 38, had a highly popular straight sets victory.

It was only the second time that the 32-year-old McEnroe has lost his opening match in the French capital, the last being in 1987 when he lost, also in four sets after winning the first, to Horacio De La Pena of Argentina.

Then, as now, he was unlucky to be drawn against an in-form clay court specialist. Cherkasov, ranked 17th in the world, was the top player not to be seeded in the tournament.

McEnroe, never too happy on slow clay surfaces, did not play at Roland Garros in the previous two years and may well decide to call it a day in a tournament he seemed fated never to win after his 1984 defeat in the final to Ivan Lendl when he surrendered a two-set lead.

"It was a tougher draw than I anticipated," an abject McEnroe said afterwards. "Mentally, my concentration cost me the match."

Asked about his 7-0 loss in the tiebreaker, he said he had been thinking too much about what he would do in the fifth set. "I forgot the winning-the-set part," he added. "I think I let the fatigue get me a little bit."



Jimmy Connors

Fortunately, McEnroe had the grace to leave centre court without any of the tantrums which have so often marked his career and an appreciative crowd cheered him off at the end of a match in which he provided his usual liberal quota of subtle touches.

Gilbert was neither as subtle nor as composed in his defeat. He shouted at the partisan crowd, cheering the 21-year-old Pioline, and knocked over an empty line judge's chair with his racket when a mis-hit lob gave the Frenchman match point.

Connors advances

Connors, four times a semi-finalist at Roland Garros but never a finalist, routed fellow-American Todd Witsken 6-3 6-3 7-5 to earn himself a second round match with Ronald Agener of Haiti.

"I'm not a legend. I'm still here and I'm trying to do something," Connors said. The American, who is also working at the tournament as a television commentator, added: "If I'd commented my match, I'd have said the old boy was lucky to finish in three sets because the fourth and fifth might have been different."

Chang, youngest winner of a Grand Slam men's title two years ago in Paris, abandoned his baseline tactics, showing his new brand of aggressive tennis as he beat Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-2 6-0 6-3.

Last year's beaten finalist Agassi, flamboyantly attired in purple, black and white, played superbly after going one set and 5-3 down to beat Swiss Marc Rosset 3-6 7-5 6-4 6-3.

"I felt I played exceptionally well," Agassi said. But you can't tell too much from one match and I don't do that. But it's a nice way to start."

Greece agrees to stage marathon

ATHENS (AP) — Greek athletic officials said Tuesday that they agreed to stage an international marathon race but it had no connection with festivities marking the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympic Games.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) associate press director, Franco Fava, said in Tokyo Sunday that the Greek Federation had agreed to organise the 1995 World Marathon Cup as part of Centenary celebrations for the games.

The Greek Olympic Commit-

tee, still upset over Athens not being awarded the games for 1996, said they would not participate in or stage any event to mark their 100th anniversary. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted last year to award the 1996 Olympics to Atlanta, Georgia.

President of the Greek Olympic Committee, Lambis Nikolau, said the World Marathon Cup "was in no way connected" with the centenary celebrations. "It's Fava's opinion that they

are, but they aren't," Nikolau emphatically said.

The modern version of the Olympics were held in Athens in 1896.

In an earlier statement, the Greek Olympic Committee said it would participate in torch-lighting ceremonies at ancient Olympia in southern Greece that will send the flame to Barcelona in 1992 and to Atlanta four years later.

The games were first held in ancient Olympia in 776 B.C.

Soviet coach warns against over-confidence

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union were warned against over-confidence Tuesday as they prepared for their European Soccer Championship qualifier against Cyprus Wednesday.

Chief coach Anatoly Byshovets told the Sovetskoy Sport daily that his main task on the eve of the game was to motivate the team sufficiently.

"It will not be easy to tune the team for the game with Cyprus. We will have to struggle not only against our opponents but against ourselves as well," he said.

But he found some kind words for the visitors from the Mediterranean island and who have lost all five of their group three games.

"I saw the Cyprus team. It has good players and it would be unwise to underestimate them," Byshovets told the paper. The Soviet Union, with two wins and a draw in their three games, are slight favourites to win the group despite the presence of Italy.

The outcome is likely to be decided when the two countries

meet in October.

The Soviets have just returned from a triangular tournament in England which also included Argentina. They lost 3-1 to the hosts and drew 1-1 with the World Cup runners-up.

The Soviet attack will probably be spearheaded by Alexei Mikhailichenko of newly-crowned Italian champions Sampdoria and Dynamo Moscow's Igor Kolyanov.

Kolyanov is the top scorer in the Soviet national championship with 11 goals in 12 games.

Marseille trains under tight security

BISCEGLIE, Italy (R) — Tight security was clamped around European Cup soccer favourites Marseille when they held their last practice sessions Tuesday ahead of Wednesday's final against Red Star Belgrade.

"I'll be in trouble if I speak to you," Marseille's England star Chris Waddle said at the gate of their hotel as he graphically drew his right forefinger across his throat.

Police at the gate kept reporters and fans away, but Waddle made a quick stop to sign autographs.

The French champions, whose hotel is surrounded by a three-metre (10-foot) wall, did not want anyone to see their preparations for Wednesday's final in Bari, 35 kilometres to the south on Italy's Adriatic coast.

Team sources said Marseille did not want any pictures taken and police zealously waved reporters away as they tried to catch a

glimpse of the practice session from the balconies of surrounding private houses.

Marseille, who were also due to practice at Bari's 57,000-capacity World Cup stadium later Tuesday, are determined to become the first French side to lift the European Cup. Rhinets and St Etienne were both losing finalists.

Red Star, with security around their team 40 kilometres the other side of Bari much less tight, will also become the first Yugoslav winners if they beat Marseille. Arch-rivals Partizan Belgrade lost to Real Madrid in 1956.

Italian and international managers turned up in force for Red Star's open practice Monday.

The players are aware of the keen interest of European clubs in luring them West in multi-million dollar transfers.

Yugoslav coach Ljupko Petrovic said he had nothing to hide, but Tuesday's final session was held behind closed doors to ensure his players' concentration for the match. Petrovic turned the biggest in the club's history.

In France about 18,000 Marseille fans began leaving the Mediterranean port for Bari.

Meanwhile Waddle aims to end a run of bad luck when he lines up for Marseille in Wednesday's final.

"I've been unlucky in the past

but this time, I feel I can make it," said Waddle, who vividly remembers missing a penalty for England in last year's World Cup semifinal shoot-out against Germany.

"I don't feel too much pressure because I've played the World Cup — but I'm very excited," said Waddle.

The Englishman, who forms a potent trio with Jean-Pierre Papin and Ghanassan Abdel Fatah, knows he has a chance to parade his skills in front of British fans watching the match in Bari on television.

"I am no Maradona, but I'm not bad. English fans must hear or read about what I'm doing here but this time they will see it," said Waddle who was controversially left out of England's squad for their European Championship tie against Turkey earlier this month.

"If we win I will be very proud for French football and for Marseille in particular."

"And I will be very happy for Chris Waddle because I think he deserves it," he added.

"I am not a loser. This time, I am determined to win but in this kind of match, with no replay, you need to be lucky."

"Belgrade is a very good team and I like the way they play. I think (Dejan) Savicevic is fantastic."

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



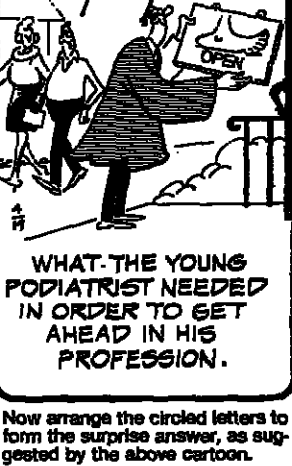
"I went camping once and hated it. A farsighted bear tried to hibernate in my left nostril."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNOMT
TYRID
CLETOH
FRILCO

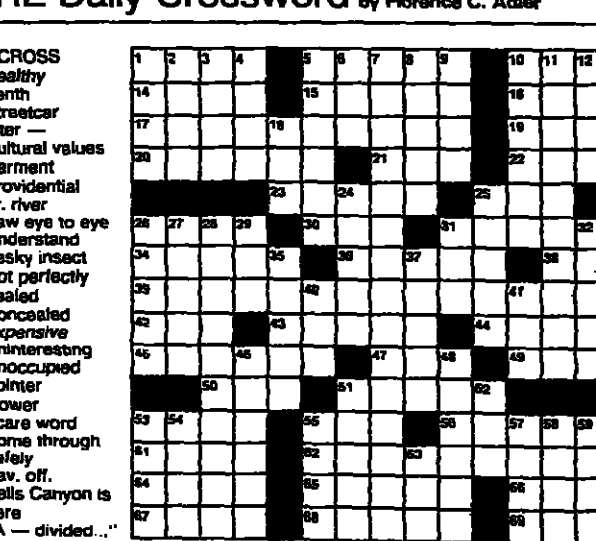
WHAT THE YOUNG POPIATRIST NEEDED IN ORDER TO GET AHEAD IN HIS PROFESSION.



Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: JOLLY LILAC CRABBY DILUTE
Answer: People said his self-worship amounted to this — "I-DOLATRY"

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler



ACROSS
1 Healthy
5 Tenth
10 Streetcar
14 Hint
15 Cultural values
16 Garment
17 Providential
18 Fr. river
20 Saw eye to eye
21 Understand
22 Pesky insect
23 Not perfectly suited
25 Concealed
26 Expensive
30 Uninteresting
31 Unoccupied
34 Pointer
35 Flower
36 Scare word
38 Come through safely
42 Nav. off.
43 Hells Canyon is here
44 "A" — divided —
45 Explorer
47 Tris
48 Hwy.
50 Regret
51 Fold of cloth
53 Chummy stuff
55 Wreath
56 Heckle
61 Object of worship
62 Great and decisive battle
64 Gory
65 Dress fabric
66 Ointment
67 First old style
68 Enroll
69 Voice votes
DOWN
1 Sound of merriment
2 Snake — (hurry)
3 Anxious
4 Roof
5 Overhang
6 Cared for
7 "In the bag!"
7 No restrictions
8 Term of endearment
9 It, cathedral city
10 Calamitous
11 Indirect
12 Rhyme scheme
13 Encounter
18 Grig
24 Parrot
25 Stern
26 Harmed and —
27 Goddess of peace
28 People at the local level
29 In great demand
31 Certain
32 Scandinavian
33 Books
35 Pale
37 Quack
40 Former name of Tokyo
41 Rocky crag
46 Vent
48 Trough
51 Former Arg. president
52 Golf mound
53 Location
54 Fragrance
55 Bath
57 Ferber or Milay
58 June 8, 1944
59 Accumulated knowledge
60 Remains
63 Beverage

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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SOME T.L.C.

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q J 10 7
♥ J 4 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ A K

EAST
♠ 9 8 6 4 3
♥ A K 7
♦ A K 7
♣ 10 2

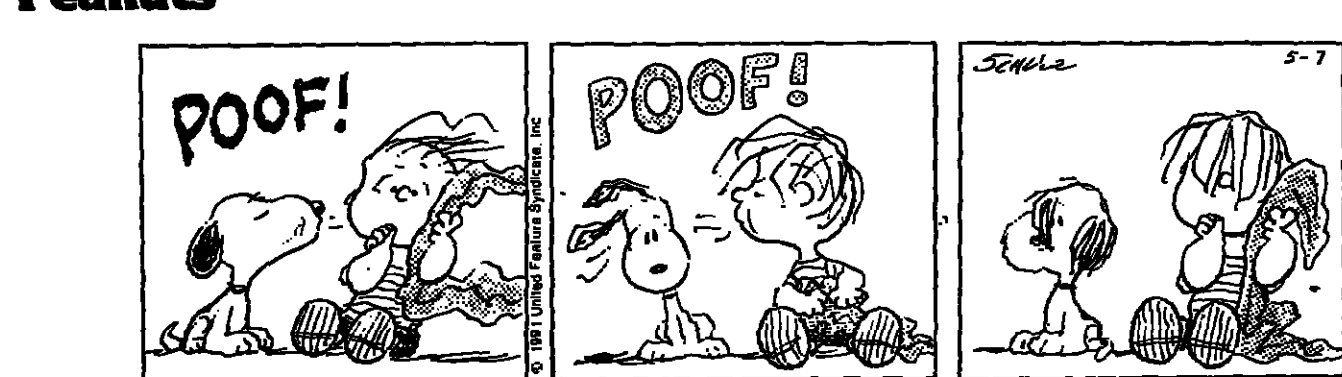
WEST
♠ 10 8 6
♥ J 8 7
♦ J 7 4 2
♣ K 10 6 3

SOUTH
♠ 5 2
♥ Q 9 5 2
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ 9 8 5

The bidding: North 1♠, South 1NT, North 2♠, South 3NT, North 4NT, South 5NT. Opening lead: Four of clubs. Victory over the green baize, like in a battle, often goes to the one who gets there fastest with the most. Given enough time, East-West will be able to take three club tricks and two hearts, so South, declarer at three no trump, must do everything possible to take nine tricks first.

The auction was routine. With a good five-card spade suit, North's hand was too strong to open one no trump. When South could do no

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Tokyo Close 27/5/91	Tokyo Close 26/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7360	1.7327
Deutsche Mark	1.6987	1.7059
Swiss Franc	1.4467	1.4535
French Franc	5.7733	5.8040
Japanese Yen	138.27	138.35
European Currency Unit	1.2081	1.2020

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.93	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.50	11.25	11.06	10.93
Deutsche Mark	6.68	6.61	6.81	6.93
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.06	7.87
French Franc	9.25	9.16	9.16	8.37
Japanese Yen	7.87	7.66	7.62	7.40
European Currency Unit	9.61	9.68	8.62	9.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent

Currency	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.45	6.60	Silver	4.06	.087

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.680	.682
Sterling Pound	1.1765	1.1824
Deutsche Mark	.3977	.3997
Swiss Franc	.4669	.4692
French Franc	.1169	.1175
Japanese Yen	.4914	.4939
Dutch Guilder	.3534	.3552
Swedish Krona	.1109	.1115
Italian Lira	.0536	.0539
Belgian Franc	.01938	.01946

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7300	1.7400
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1810	.1819
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1830	.1840
Qatari Riyal	.1900	.2050
Egyptian Pound	1.7150	1.7300
Omani Riyal	.1830	.1840
UAE Dirham	.3600	.3700
Greek Drachma	1.4300	1.4400

CAB Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	26/5/1991 Close	27/5/1991 Close
All-Share	113.72	113.33
Banking Sector	110.40	110.14
Insurance Sector	112.02	112.19
Industry Sector	117.29	116.82
Services Sector	126.93	125.42

Soviet Union sinks deeper into the red

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet budget deficit jumped 230 per cent during the first quarter of 1991, compared with the same period a year earlier, according to the State Committee on Statistics.

The committee attributed the increase partly to the refusal of some of the 15 Soviet republics to make their full contributions to the national budget. In addition, revenues from sales, profits and taxes were lower than anticipated.

The Soviet Union has run chronic deficits for years, and in the past has made up the difference simply by printing more money.

Economists and lawmakers pushing for a transition to a market-oriented economy have urged the government to take strong deficit-cutting measures, such as selling state-owned businesses and property. The first quarter's figures could lend urgency to the

'New iron lady' worries Japanese

TOKYO (R) — Anxiety here over the appointment of Mrs. Edith Cresson as prime minister of France because of her attacks on Tokyo's trade policies is being balanced by soothing noises coming from the European Community (EC), officials and businessmen said Tuesday.

Mrs. Cresson's appointment is likely to discourage Japanese investment in France, they said. But her freedom of manoeuvre will be increasingly limited by EC laws and regulations.

Cresson has not toned down her criticisms of Japan since her appointment two weeks ago, saying Japan had taken over the world's photographic industry and destroyed America's car-making sector.



Edith Cresson

Japan's top economic newspaper, printed Monday a cartoon of a smiling Cresson dressed in a suit, tie and trousers with the caption: "I am the new iron lady."

It noted she was married to an official of Peugeot, the French car maker that is the most vocal in calling for controls on imports of Japanese cars when European nations form a single EC market after 1992.

It contrasted her approach with that of EC Commission President Jacques Delors, in Tokyo for four days last week, whom the newspaper praised for a more cooperative attitude in trying to avoid trade friction.

Opening Soon
Smart Look
Sun Tan Bed
Slimming Machine

Iraqi oil needed to maintain moderate oil prices in winter

ISFAHAN, Iran (Agencies) — The world may cry out for Iraqi oil if it wants to pay moderate prices when demand increases during the northern winter, OPEC ministers and officials said Tuesday.

The United States and Britain have said they want Iraqi President Saddam Hussein out of power before allowing the U.N. Security Council to lift a stringent embargo imposed on Iraqi oil exports after its invasion of Kuwait last August.

The ministers and officials estimated demand during the fourth quarter of this year at up to 24 million barrels per day, about 500,000 more than the maximum current capacity of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"We can't do without Iraq. It has to be brought in one way or another," said a senior OPEC official attending an oil industry conference in the Iranian central city of Isfahan.

Entitled "Oil and Gas in the 1990s: Prospects for Cooperation," the meeting was attended by 10 oil ministers, including six from the 18-member OPEC.

OPEC ministers will discuss at their semi-annual meeting in Vienna on June 4 what production levels are needed to defend oil prices, currently more than \$3 below the official OPEC reference price of \$21 a barrel.

But some ministers said they might only set production levels for the third quarter, leaving any decision on the fourth quarter until September.

"We are hampered by the political situation in the Gulf. We just don't know when they will lift the embargo on Iraq," one non-Arab minister said.

"We are not worried about the third quarter. But the fourth quarter might be difficult," another minister said, referring to the winter season when demand for fuel oil increases in the northern hemisphere.

Many OPEC officials believe the group will increase output by up to 700,000 barrels per day (b/d) to bring the official output ceiling to 23 million for the fourth quarter from the current 22.3 million b/d.

But that ceiling excluded Iraq and Kuwait, which contributed a total of around 4.2 million b/d before the invasion.

The United States and Britain, which as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council have the power to veto resolutions and oppose an Iraqi request that it be allowed to sell \$1 billion worth of crude oil to buy food and medicine.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, who delivered the keynote speech to the conference Monday, made no mention of supply and demand. But he pledged that Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and a strong opponent of Iraq, would work for market stability.

Oil industry executives and analysts believe Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Arab allies favoured a price of around \$18 a barrel to maintain the current pickup in demand after a slump caused by the Gulf crisis when prices hit \$40 a barrel.

"The Saudis are thinking long term," one said. "They know that Iraq and Kuwait will get back to the market at some stage. They are clearly trying to secure their share of the market in the future."

The kingdom boosted output by about 55 per cent to 8.5 million b/d to help replace some of the lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti crudes.

A Kuwaiti marketing official said the emirate would be unable to put any significant amount of crude into the market before next year, with much of its wellheads still on fire.

He said Kuwait would ask its partners in the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at a meeting in Riyadh Wednesday for 500,000 b/d in loans to be repaid in the future.

Industry officials said that was not the case with Iraq, which would be able to pump about 1.2 million b/d at short notice.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgazeleh told the conference that the West wouldn't need to build up expensive strategic oil stockpiles if supplies were guaranteed.

"If producers satisfied the consumers' energy requirements through timely and sufficient supplies, a major portion of world capital wouldn't be wasted in the huge costs of maintaining the strategic petroleum reserves," he said.

Mr. Azgazeleh also said oil consumers should step up technology transfer to allow producers to develop their oil reserves.

It is in the interest of both producers and consumers to have a stable supply of oil at reasonable prices," the Saudi minister said.

"The achievement of such a balance has to be within the context of the market. Neither producers nor consumers can impose a solution based on their own desires," he said.

Gulf nations proved during the Gulf war that they were reliable suppliers of energy to the industrial world, boosting oil output to make up for lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti production, Sheikh Nazer said.

The Saudi oil minister criticised taxes and excise duties levied by industrialised countries. He said they were "denying the consumers the fruits of oil price declines and adding to the burden of increases in the price of oil."

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto told the conference that the 13 members of OPEC needed to pin down the reasons for failing to reach their target price of \$21 a barrel.

But the Indonesian official also said the June 4 meeting in Vienna will discuss increasing the group's overall production ceiling for the second half of this year. Such a move would help prevent an increase in prices.

Subroto said OPEC countries will need to spend about \$120 billion to boost oil production during the next 10 years to meet demand. World consumption is expected to reach 31.4 million barrels a day by the year 2000, up from 24.5 million barrels a day projected for the end of this year.

India wins world's sympathy but not the money it needs

WASHINGTON (R) — India has earned the world's sympathy following last week's assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, but so far not the money it needs to avert a financial crunch in the coming months, analysts and diplomats said.

"I don't now how they will keep afloat," said Thomas Thornton, adjunct professor of Asian studies at Johns Hopkins University.

In an unusual joint statement last week, World Bank President Barber Conable and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus called the death of the former Indian prime minister a tragedy and pledged to continue to work with the country on its economic development.

But officials of the two international lending organisations made clear that any new funds would be contingent upon India carrying out tough economic reforms.

"The IMF needs a political commitment from India for a strong (economic) adjustment programme in order to release fund resources," one IMF official said.

But that will not happen until after the second stage of India's general election, which has been postponed until mid-June following Gandhi's assassination.

The IMF is insisting that India take action to rein in its bloated government budget before being eligible for further assistance, analysts said.

"Without a budget, the IMF is not willing to give them another loan," Mr. Thornton said.

But without a government, the country cannot put together a budget.

Every day counts because India is running short of money, analysts and diplomats said.

India's foreign exchange reserves, depleted by the Gulf crisis, are now hovering at just under \$1 billion — barely enough for two weeks' imports.

The financial crisis has been brought on by ballooning government deficits and mounting foreign debt repayments.

Despite the crisis, India has said repeatedly that it would not reschedule its massive \$70 billion in foreign debt.

Such a declaration is important to maintain the confidence of foreign bank lenders, which have

extended some \$3.5 billion in short-term credits to India money that could be pulled out quickly at the first sign of trouble.

Even before Gandhi's death, IMF and World Bank experts estimated last month that the country faced a multi-billion-dollar funding gap in the April-September period, diplomats said.

Although India could cover most of the shortfall by reining in imports and running down its reserves further, it would still need about \$1 billion in foreign help to make up the difference, they said.

But so far, little of that seems to be forthcoming. A meeting of the IMF, World Bank and 13 donor countries last month yielded less than half of the money needed.

Diplomats said donor nations seem unwilling to lend any more money until India agrees to an economic reform package with the IMF.

"They (the donors) would be reluctant to disburse any money until the IMF negotiations are finalised," a diplomat in Delhi said.

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey, trying to revive a tourism industry hit hard by the Gulf crisis and subsequent influx of Iraqi refugees, is offering half-price fuel to domestic and foreign charter flights.

Government officials said Tuesday the discount would be offered through November to any charter flight that refuelled at state-run airports in Turkey.

Losses to airports would be covered by the state development and support fund, which expects the landing incentive to cost around \$20 million.

National carrier Turkish Airlines (THY) would also benefit. THY, which lost more than \$50 million during a 38-day strike that ended in May, raised its domestic fares by up to 72 per cent this month.

Oil joint ventures with Japanese add to Saudi presence in consumer states

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's plan for refinery joint ventures with Japan brings the world's biggest crude oil exporter a step closer to its aim of operating petrol pumps in every major oil consuming centre.

A deal announced in Tokyo Tuesday between state-owned Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco), and three Japanese firms will lead to feasibility studies for a refinery in Saudi Arabia and one in Japan.

"Saudi Arabia intends to process half of its crude through its own system by the turn of the century," an oil industry executive said. "They have refining in the United States, now they have Japan, the next one will be Europe."

The kingdom has a refining and distribution joint venture in the United States with Texaco Inc, which processes 600,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Saudi crude.

It recently announced plans to acquire a 35 per cent stake in South Korea's Sangyong Oil Refining Company Ltd. to tap the fast-growing Far East market.

Saudi Aramco is discussing forming joint ventures in Europe with French oil giant Total-CIE Francaise des Petroles and the

plan for a 300,000 b/d refinery in Saudi Arabia and a 150,000 b/d plant in Japan.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have a 10 per cent stake in AOC, which operates the neutral zone oilfield on their border at Khafji. AOC's concession expires by the year 2000 and Japan was requesting its extension in exchange for allowing Saudi Arabia into its retail markets, an oil industry executive in the Gulf said. "It is widely understood that the AOC concession will be extended," he said.

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New effort to end Yugoslav crisis fails

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's leaders failed in their latest bid to appoint a president Tuesday when crisis talks collapsed because four members of the eight-man state presidency refused to attend.

Kosovo province summoned the other seven presidency members to a meeting to try to fill a power vacuum that has paralysed the presidency, the highest state body, and left Yugoslavia without a president or head of its army for almost two weeks.

But Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia ignored the talks because they say Croatia's Stipe Mesic is the president, although Serbia and its allies blocked his appointment by a usually automatic rotation system on May 15.

"It would be absurd to attend this meeting because only Mesic has the powers to convene the presidency," a senior Croatian official said.

The presidency cancelled the meeting because five members are needed for a quorum and decision-making powers. It rescheduled the meeting for Wednesday.

But Western diplomats said there was little chance of the presidency meeting even Wednesday and saw no end to a crisis that Yugoslav leaders say threatens the country with civil war.

"This is a tremendous mess. They have to sort out the Mesic presidency but there is no progress at all," one envoy said.

Yugoslavia, which is divided into six republics and two provinces, is torn by bitter ethnic and political disputes which have killed more than 20 people this year.

In the key clash, Croatia and Slovenia want Yugoslavia to become a loose alliance of sovereign states. Serbia and Montenegro want it to remain a centrally ruled federation and say Mesic would break up the country if he were president.

The United States has said it will from now on provide aid to Yugoslavia only selectively and blames Serbia's Communist leaders, now known as Socialists, for the crisis.

The Serbian government hit back in a statement published in

the Serbian government daily Politika Tuesday.

Pointing to the traditional friendship and alliance in two world wars, the government said: "Serbian people and government are surprised by the U.S. attitude towards the Republic of Serbia."

The State Department last week blamed Serbia for allegedly violating human rights of ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo province and for blocking Mesic's election.

The Serbian government said it was a "direct support and encouragement to Albanian separatists in Kosovo... and an act of arbitration and interference in the affairs of an independent and sovereign state."

It said ethnic Albanians had all rights in Kosovo and that the U.S. move was based on wrong information.

"The problem in Kosovo is not in the realisation of human rights but in the demands of a part of Albanian population to separate this territory... first from Serbia, and then from Yugoslavia," it said.

Gorbachev discusses disarmament, economic relations with Bush

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush discussed arms control, economic cooperation and their planned summit, originally due in February, by telephone Monday.

A spokesman for Gorbachev said Tuesday the leaders were apparently satisfied with the conversation, their second this month.

The summit has been delayed by disagreements over nuclear and conventional weapons pacts, among other factors.

Soviet army chief General Mikhail Moiseyev was in Washington last week to discuss the remaining differences, but each side later blamed the other for the lack of agreement.

Gorbachev is also seeking billions of dollars of Western aid to back up a new reform programme designed to turn the Soviet Union into a market economy.

Bush wants to see the plans before committing any money and is due to receive close Gorbachev aide Yevgeny Primakov in Washington this week.

A radical Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky is working on an economic rescue plan with U.S. experts at Harvard University and says he has Gorbachev's blessing for the project.

Gorbachev discussed his reform plans for the Soviet Union Monday with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, with whom he has struck up a warm relationship.

"The conversation was about the next phase in world development, which is vitally bound up with the fate of perestroika, and how to give it a second wind," the official Soviet News Agency, TASS, reported.

Thatcher, on a private visit to Gorbachev's invitation, urged students at a prestigious Moscow institute Monday to stick with Gorbachev, stressing the enormous achievements of his reforms so far.

Gorbachev was to fly to central Asia Wednesday for a three-day visit to Kazakhstan. The spokesman said Gorbachev, whose early career was closely linked with agriculture, was due to meet farmers and visit three cities.

China welcomes Bush MFN statement, regrets sanctions

PEKING (R) — China said Tuesday that U.S. President George Bush had made a realistic and wise decision by saying he would recommend unconditional renewal of China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading privilege.

But a foreign ministry statement Tuesday said Peking regretted the U.S. decision to curb high-technology exports to China because of its policy on arms sales.

Renewal of MFN, which gives low tariffs to billions of dollars worth of Chinese exports entering the United States, "is a realistic and wise decision for which the Chinese government would like to express its appreciation," the statement said.

"A proper settlement of the MFN issue between China and the United States is beneficial to the two sides and will help to promote the restoration and growth of Sino-U.S. relations and maintain and enhance the prosperity of Hong Kong and the

Asian Pacific region at large," it continued.

But the foreign Ministry also expressed China's unhappiness at Bush's announcement of restrictions on high-technology exports because of China's alleged sale of missiles and other advanced weapons to underdeveloped countries like Pakistan.

"We express our regret over this statement," the ministry said. "It is known to all that the Chinese government has always adopted a serious, responsible and prudent position on the international arms trade."

Bush announced his decision on MFN in a speech at Yale University Monday, and said he would tell Congress this week of his decision.

Many in the U.S. Congress, critical of China's trade policies, human rights record and arms sales policies, have said they will fight the decision to extend MFN for another year.

ETA claims 3 bomb attacks in Rome

ROME (R) — Three powerful bombs Tuesday rocked Spanish targets in Rome, including Spain's embassy in the Italian capital, causing serious damage but no injuries.

A man claiming to speak for the Basque Separatist Guerrilla Organisation ETA later called an international news agency and took responsibility for the three blasts.

The attacks came a day after Spain's ruling Socialists confirmed their status as the country's leading political force in nationwide local elections.

The bombs went off between 3:50 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. (0150-0230 GMT) in front of the embassy, the Rome branch of the Banco Bilbao Vizcaya and the offices of the Spanish national airline Iberia.

Spanish community sources in Rome said the Spanish School and the Spanish Cultural Institute were closed Tuesday as a precautionary measure.

The attack against the embassy appeared to be the first against a diplomatic target in Rome since crude rocket-launched grenades were fired at the American and British embassies in June 1986.

The embassy bomb, which appeared to be the most powerful of the three, shattered the huge wooden door of the Borghese Palace which houses the Spanish mission.

The premises of Rome's most exclusive club, the Circolo Della Caccia, are in another part of the 16th century building, constructed by the family of Pope Paul V.

Glass was sprayed round the small square and dozens of cars parked near the embassy had their windshields shattered.

Another bomb destroyed the front entrance of the Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, on a narrow side street near the Trevi Fountain. It knocked down masonry work and left heavy metal security gates tangled. Dozens of nearby windows were knocked out.

The bomb at the Iberia offices smashed the front windows and knocked down metal work and aluminium awnings.

The caller who claimed responsibility for the blasts said they had been carried out with the "assistance and collaboration of a little-known new Italian guerrilla group called the Armed Falange."

Police said they had no immediate comment on the authenticity of the claim.

Lithuania declares Soviet troop presence illegal

MOSCOW (AP) — The Lithuanian parliament Tuesday declared the basing of Soviet "black beret" troops in the republic illegal and said recent raids on border posts were criminal acts.

The Supreme Council adopted a resolution branding the Soviet Interior Ministry troops outlaws and calling for their punishment under Lithuanian law, according to spokeswoman Rita Dapkus.

There have been at least 14 raids on border checkpoints in the Baltics in recent weeks. Two people have died in the attacks.

The customs checkpoints were put up after the Baltic Republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia declared independence in 1990, a move not recognised by the Kremlin.

Leaders of the Baltic republics fear the incidents will provoke a violent response from their people that might serve as a pretext for a military crackdown. In January, Soviet troops killed more than 20 people in Lithuania and Latvia.

Gandhi's death plunges Congress Party into generation war

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi has plunged his Congress Party, India's rulers for most of its 44 years since independence, into a war of succession between younger and older generations.

"It is the biggest crisis of our party," one older generation leader said Tuesday as the former prime minister's ashes were poured into holy waters in Hindu rites believed to free his soul.

The two camps are expected to call a truce to allow Narasimha Rao, an ailing, 70-year-old politician with a weak political base, to be named acting Congress president.

The confrontation is expected to resume after general elections end in mid-June, especially if Congress is in a position to form a government. It would then have to elect a parliamentary leader who would become prime minister.

The generation gap compounded the Congress problem of having no appointed heir.

Both Gandhi and his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, prevented alternative leaders emerging. Pran Chopra of the Centre of Policy Research, a New Delhi think tank, said.

"Anyone who could look like being rival would be cut down and no authentic leaders from the states were allowed to grow. Therefore there is no leader ready to step into the shoes," he said.

Polls in India are spread over several days to prevent security forces being over-extended. Only one of three polling days had been completed when Gandhi was blown up last Tuesday campaigning in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

The rest of the vote in what was already shaping up as India's bloodiest election was postponed to June 12 and 15.

Before Gandhi's assassination, the centrist Congress was expected to be the biggest party in parliament, but short of a majority as it was challenged from the right and left.

Gandhi's ashes poured into sacred rivers

Meanwhile Gandhi's ashes were poured into India's sacred rivers Tuesday in Hindu rites to ensure peace for the soul of the former prime minister who was slain by an assassin's bomb.

In a 10-minute ceremony, Gandhi's widow and two children shook the cremated remains from a flower-covered copper urn into the muddy brown water at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers.

Gandhi's 20-year-old son Rahul put his hand into the urn to pull out more ashes, then dipped it into the water to swirl out the last of its contents. A soldier took the urn and completed the task.

His widow Sonia broke down, covering her face with the end of her white sari. Her 21-year-old daughter Priyanka put her arm around her mother's shoulders to comfort her.

Gandhi was killed May 21 in southern India while on a campaign tour for elections, which had begun the previous day. After his death, the second and third rounds of voting were postponed until mid-June.

Thousands of people on the shore watched the ceremony, which took place in mid-river on a wooden platform covered with rugs and white sheet, the colour of mourning. Two Hindu priests helped as the ashes were consigned to the water. Mourners scattered rose petals and white blossoms on the water.

Suspect rode in police car boot while dog took seat

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — A New Zealander has complained he was forced to ride in a police car boot because the back seat was occupied by a tracking dog and its handler, a police source said.

The suspect, who has not been named, had agreed to ride in the boot and police were unsure why he had now complained, the source told Reuters.

Commissioner John Jamieson said New Zealand's top policeman was considering the case, he added.

Company working on suitcases to follow owners

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Following the leader could take on a whole new meaning if research by a robotics company comes to fruition.

Allan Branch, head of Branch and Associates, is starting work on a project designed to eliminate some of the drudgery faced by travellers everywhere — carrying or tugging suitcases.

The company has signed a technology agreement with Samsonite, one of the world's largest luggage manufacturers, to develop a range of "thinking suitcases," Branch said.

A robotised suitcase case may follow its owner around a hotel foyer or airport so that the owner does not have to pull it or carry it," he said.

Another possibility would be to use robotics to develop a suitcase which can navigate itself to your hotel room to save porters carrying it.

The idea is to design an executive suitcase which can follow its owner. "It means you can step off a plane and press a button and the case will follow you through the airport and out to the taxi queue," Branch said.

Branch's company, which employs only seven people, doesn't make any products. It just creates the ideas and develops the prototypes.

Filming of An Irish Story to begin

BILLINGS, Montana (AP) — Filming of the movie An Irish Story, starring Tom Cruise and directed by Ron Howard, begins this week in Montana.

Cruise and his wife, Nicole Kidman, star as immigrants whose travels took them to the western frontier for land giveaways. Nearly 1,000 extras have been measured for costumes and are getting appropriate haircuts to portray residents of Boston and Oklahoma, circa 1890.

The movie crews this week will begin shooting interiors, including a railroad depot, and buildings being redone to look like a Boston social club and a Bordello lodging house.

The movie will shoot in the Billings area until the end of July or early August. Almost all of the film will be shot in Montana.

The opening sequences have already been filmed in Ireland. The film is set for release in the summer of 1992.

Politicians ordered to clean up bad language

LAGOS (R) — Police have told budding civilian politicians in Nigeria's northern Katsina state to stop using bad language or face the full weight of the law.

Members of the two military-approved political parties had harangued each other in "slandorous, intemperate or base language," over public address systems, the News Agency of Nigeria reported.

It quoted Police Commissioner Alhaji Ali Jos as saying such offenders would be charged under a transition-to-civil-rule decree. He gave no details.

Nigeria's military rulers have pledged to restore civilian rule throughout the country in October 1992.

Taiwan's divorce record high

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwanese fortune tellers labelled 1990 a year of "lonely birds" in which many people were destined to be unlucky in marriage.

Official Interior Ministry figures released Monday appeared to confirm that prediction.

The figures showed that a record 20,165 couples divorced last year, compared with 15,871 in 1986. Just over 114,000 couples married in 1990 in Taiwan, which has a population of 20 million. Women have become more independent financially in the past decade as more of them have won high-paying jobs.

Sociologists say this is a major reason for the rise in the divorce rate.

N. Korea to apply for U.N. entry

TOKYO (R) — North Korea, backed into a corner by South Korea's successful wooing of Moscow and Peking, announced Tuesday it will reluctantly apply for separate membership of the United Nations.

The news clearly came as a pleasant surprise in Seoul. The South Korean Foreign Ministry, avoiding all triumphalism, said it was bound to help relax inter-Korean tensions and encourage moves towards peaceful reunification.

It electrified a U.N. disarmament conference in Kyoto, western Japan, where U.N. under-secretary General Youshi Akashi told delegates: "We hope this will contribute to disarmament in the Korean peninsula."

Troops of North and South, armed to the teeth, still face each other across the truce line drawn at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Political relations remain glacial, though they have thawed slightly since the two prime ministers met for the first time in 1990.

The U.N. membership question was a major stumbling block.

Another still unresolved problem is North Korea's secretive nuclear programme. Seoul and Washington fear Pyongyang intends to develop nuclear weapons, and is demanding that it allow international inspection of the site.

Pyongyang had fiercely resisted the path of separate entry into the world body, arguing that seating the two rival states in New York would freeze the 46-year-long partition of Korea.

But Seoul rejected as unworkable the North's alternative scenario, that the two governments — which now have non-voting observer status — should jointly occupy a seat.

South Korea forced its neighbour's hand by announcing its own bid for U.N. membership and lining up diplomatic backing from many nations including the North's long-time ally, Moscow.

The final blow to Pyongyang's resistance seems to have come in early May during Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to the North Korean capital.

Senior diplomatic sources in Tokyo said Li made clear to his hosts that Peking would not use its veto at the United Nations to block South Korea's entry.

The pill was hard to swallow.

"The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has no alternative but to enter the United Nations at the present stage as a step to tide over such temporary difficulties created by the South Korean authorities," said a bitterly-worded Foreign Ministry statement.

The statement, circulated by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo, noted Seoul's decision to apply unilaterally for U.N. membership, and added:

"If we leave this alone, important issues related to the interests of the entire Korean nation would be dealt with in a biased manner on the U.N. rostrum and this would entail grave consequences ..."

Roh vows no constitutional change

SEOUL (R) — President Roh Tae-Woo, facing the worst unrest in South Korea for four years, said Tuesday he had no plans to replace the presidential system with a parliamentary cabinet system.

Opposition politicians have long accused the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) of plotting to prolong its rule by shifting to a Westminster-style cabinet system.

"I'm most persistent with that if the people do not want it, the government cannot change to a parliamentary cabinet system," Roh said in a speech to senior ministers and ruling party leaders meeting to discuss the political turmoil that has engulfed the country for the past month.

South Korea faces presidential elections in 1992.

"Some politicians are voicing comments that discussions themselves on constitutional change... are the cause of social unrest," Roh said referring to opposition parties.

"In a democratic society, constitutional changes can be discussed freely and (nobody) can prevent this," he said.

In an effort to halt almost daily demonstrations ignited by the fatal police beating of a student on April 26, Roh sacked his prime minister, Ro Jai-Bong, regarded by opposition leaders as the architect of tougher policies against dissent.

After a meeting with his new prime minister, 62-year-old conservative educator Chung Won-Shik, Roh replaced four other cabinet ministers.

The partial reshuffle has not mollified opposition leaders who argue Roh simply replaced one hardliner with another.

Roh said the government would guarantee peaceful assemblies and rallies, and ordered his ministers to revise pertinent security laws, "if necessary."

"However, (the government) will never forgive violent and destructive actions and will strongly cope with them," Roh said.

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"However, (the government) will never forgive violent and destructive actions and will strongly cope with them," Roh said.

'Drug agent was possible target in Thai crash'

LONDON (R) — An airliner which crashed in Thailand Sunday could have been bombed on the orders of Asian drug barons who wanted to kill a British narcotics agent, British newspapers said Tuesday.

Donald McIntosh, an adviser on drugs control to the United Nations, was among 223 people killed when the Lauda-Air jet crashed in jungle northwest of Bangkok.

His presence on the flight sparked strong speculation in Britain's popular press that drug dealers operating in the "Golden Triangle" of Thailand, Laos and Burma could have made him a target in a bomb attack on the aircraft.

The Daily Express newspaper said McIntosh, 43, had been investigating international heroin dealers and was carrying information on the drugs trade to a secret meeting in Vienna.

The aircraft could have been bombed to prevent him passing on his findings, the newspaper said.

The tabloid Sun newspaper said leaders of the drugs trade wanted McIntosh dead because he had cost them millions of dollars in lost revenue.

McIntosh had been appointed from Britain's Home Office (Interior Ministry) to work as a field adviser to a United Nations drug control programme based in Vienna.

Meanwhile in Thailand, searchers Tuesday found the body of the pilot of a Lauda-Air airliner that crashed into a Thai hilltop killing all 223 aboard, still strapped to his seat in the cockpit.

The Boeing 767-300 aircraft exploded in mid-air and plummeted to Earth Sunday night, witnesses said.

Niki Lauda, the former world motor racing champion who owns 51 per cent of the airline that bears his name, arrived in Thailand Tuesday and said only a lengthy investigation would be able to determine what caused the disaster.

He told reporters it was "pure speculation" the crash was caused by a bomb.

"Everything is getting nasty from the speculation," he said. "You have to give the whole thing a little time."

Lauda arrived at a crash site near Suphan Buri, 200 kilometres northwest of Bangkok, at about midday. He is to head the disaster investigation.

Earlier, rescue workers discovered the cockpit containing at least three members of the 10-person crew. The American pilot, captain Thomas Welch, was still strapped to his seat at the controls.

The cockpit, largely intact, was discovered at the foot of the 500-metre hill on which the wrecked fuselage came down. The cockpit and fuselage were 1.5 kilometres apart.

The Boeing was the first 767 to crash since the model was introduced in 1982. It had taken off from a stopover in Bangkok on its flight from Hong Kong to Vienna.

The crash was Thailand's worst aviation disaster and produced the 12th highest death toll in recent aviation history.

The plane disappeared from the radar screen at Bangkok's

control tower 16 minutes after takeoff, Phayak Cuket, deputy director general of Thailand's Aviation Department, told reporters Monday.

The pilot had reported nothing unusual before that, he said.

"It was cruising at 31,000 feet and was only two years old," Lauda said of the plane.

"There were no abnormalities with the flight," he said. "The plane was absolutely normal."

Traveling with him to the crash site were Thai aviation authorities. Transport Ministry officials from Vienna, the home base of Lauda-Air, Austrian police and insurance investigators and Boeing representatives.

International experts were already checking the flight data recorder and tapes of cockpit conversations. Communications Minister Nukul Prachumabod told reporters.

Lauda said he would stay in Thailand until the investigation was finished. "That may be a long time," he said.

Austrian police said a telephone caller who raised the question of a bomb was not making a claim of responsibility as originally thought, but was just trying to point investigators in the direction of sabotage.

Samboon Rahong, head of the airport authority at Bangkok's airport and said the crash might have been caused by bad weather, though policemen at the crash site said it was only drizzling when the plane went down.

Emergency workers at the scene in a bamboo grove were hindered by local people scavenging clothing and valuables scattered over several square kilometres.

Police set up checkpoints Tuesday to stem the looting. Reporters saw at least 20 people detained and their hands of watches, calculators, other electronic goods and clothing confiscated.

Most of the jewellery was stolen Monday when thousands of people thronged the site.

It took police several hours before they could control the crowd and begin the orderly collection of bodies and debris.

"They wouldn't listen to us," a policeman said. The police were greatly outnumbered by the looters.

Bodies were being flown to the capital city to a special morgue established at the police hospital where the identifying of victims was taking place.

About 100 relatives of the dead were being flown from Hong Kong to help police with this grim task.

A group of relatives flew in from Taipei Tuesday, a Lauda Air official said.

There were 83 Austrians aboard the flight, including nine of the crew. The next largest contingents were made up of 52 Hong Kong people and 39 Thais.

Ten Italians, seven Swiss, six Chinese, four Germans, three Yugoslavs, three Portuguese, three Taiwanese, three Americans, including the captain, two Britons, two Hungarians and two Filipinos were also aboard.

There was one passenger each from Poland, Turkey, Brazil and Australia, Lauda-Air said.

Colombian government signs peace accord with rebels

BOGOTA (R) — The Colombian government and an Indian guerrilla group signed a peace agreement Monday, committing the rebels to lay down their arms and return to civilian life.

"This is a significant step towards national peace," presidential adviser Jesus Bejarano said after signing the accord with leaders of the Quintin Lame guerrilla group at Pueblo Nuevo in the southwestern region of Cauca.

Under the accord, the 140 fighters of Quintin Lame, an exclusively Indian group, will give up their weapons Friday after eight years of armed struggle.

In return, they receive a pardon and a government pledge to spend three billion pesos (\$5 million) on education and development in the areas of Cauca province where the group has influence. It took 11 months to negotiate the agreement.

Guerrilla leader Gildardo Fernandez said the group would become a peaceful political movement fighting for the rights of indigenous groups.

Quintin Lame is the fourth Colombian guerrilla group to sign a peace accord with the government in the past 15 months. It follows M-19, the Revolutionary Workers' Party and the People's Liberation Army.

In a separate development, Colombian officials searched for a secure prison for drug lord Pablo Escobar on Monday while a newspaper report alleged that security forces are trying to block

his surrender, fearing that he has information about senior officers.

Escobar, boss of the Medellin cocaine cartel and Colombia's second-wanted drug baron, told a Catholic priest last Tuesday that he would surrender in 15 days, accepting a government offer of lenient terms.

The Reverend Rafael Garcia Herreros said Sunday he was seeking another meeting with Escobar at which he hoped the drug lord would surrender.

In preparation, presidential security adviser Rafael Pardo said the Colombian government has sent a committee to investigate security at a drug addicts' rehabilitation centre, proposed as a prison for Escobar.

Based on its report, the government will decide whether the centre in Escobar's home town of Envigado, near Medellin, is suitable, local radio said.

But the opposition La Prensa newspaper reported Monday that security forces are trying to block the surrender.

It quoted military and police sources as saying that recent security force operations around Medellin "seek to avoid Escobar's surrender to stop him saying all the things he knows about senior officers."

The head of the extraditables (drug traffickers) also has information which could compromise many government officials," La Prensa said. It said Escobar could disclose abuses by the police and army.